

**THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEVADA JUDICIARY**

FISCAL YEAR 2010



Nevada Supreme Court

Front Row:

**L to R: Justice Kristina Pickering, Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre,
Justice Nancy M. Saitta, and Justice Michael L. Douglas**

Back Row:

**L to R: Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice Michael A. Cherry,
and Associate Chief Justice James W. Hardesty**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010

Table of Contents

A Message from the Chief Justice..... 3

Nevada’s Court Structure.....4

Report from the Administrative Office of the Courts.....5

Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.....8

Funding the Courts..... 9

Foreclosure Mediation..... 10

Commissions and Committees..... 11

Work of the Courts..... 15

The Nevada Judiciary Caseload Statistics Report

Uniform System for Judicial Records..... 24

Supreme Court.....26

District Courts.....29

Justice Courts..... 36

Municipal Courts.....40

Traffic..... 42

Specialty Court Programs..... 46

Courts with Incomplete Data..... 51

Appendix Tables

Available on the Supreme Court Website
WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US
 (PHOTO CREDITS ARE ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER)



The Nevada Supreme Court Seal

A Nevada Supreme Court seal, to symbolize the many aspects of justice, was authorized after Nevada became a state on Oct. 31, 1864.

With the Civil War raging at the time, and liberty on the public’s mind, the seal’s designers chose to use the Goddess of Liberty instead of the Goddess of Justice to represent the Supreme Court . This was a logical choice because the politics of the war had led to Nevada’s statehood and the preservation of the Union.

On the Seal, Liberty’s left hand holds a liberty pole topped with a Phrygian cap. Her right hand supports a shield and she is accompanied by an eagle. The liberty pole and Phrygian cap continue the theme of Liberty. Phrygia was an ancient Indo-European country captured by the Romans, who later freed the Phrygian slaves. Each former slave was given a soft, close-fitting conical cap to confirm his status as a free person. In the 1700’s, French revolutionaries adopted the Phrygian cap as a symbol of their struggle for liberty.

On the upper part of the seal are the words “Supreme Court State of Nevada,” preceded and followed by single stars. Below are the Latin Words *Fiat Justitia*, the court’s motto, which means, “Let Justice be Done.”

Designed, prepared, and published by the Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts
 201 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89131
 775-684-1700 • WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US

JUSTICES OF THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre (pictured right) is a fourth generation Nevadan and second generation judge (his father was a Fifth Judicial District Judge). A graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, Chief Justice Parraguirre's judicial career began in 1991 when he won a seat on the Las Vegas Municipal Court. He served there until then Governor Kenny Guinn appointed him in 1999 to a seat on the District Court in Clark County. As a District Judge, he served on more than a dozen commissions and committees. He also served as president of the Nevada District Judges Association during 2004. Chief Justice Parraguirre was elected to his seat on the Nevada Supreme Court in 2004. He became Chief Justice in January 2010. His current term ends in January 2011, but he was unopposed in 2010 in a bid for a second term that will end in January 2017.



Associate Chief Justice James W. Hardesty is a native Nevadan, having been born and raised in Reno. A graduate of McGeorge School of Law, he practiced law in Reno from 1975 through 1998, when he was elected to the District Court bench in Washoe County. He served as Chief Judge for two terms and was president of the Nevada District Judges Association in 2003. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 2004 and became Chief Justice in 2009. He currently co-chairs the Nevada Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee, the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, and is chairperson of the Nevada Legislature's Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice. His current term ends in January 2011, but he was unopposed in 2010 in a bid for a second term that will end in January 2017.



Justice Michael L. Douglas, the first African-American justice in Nevada's history, was appointed to the high court in March 2004 and elected to a full term in 2006. A graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law, Justice Douglas began his Nevada legal career as an attorney with Nevada Legal Services in 1982. Two years later, he was hired by the Clark County District Attorney's Office, where he worked until 1996, when he was appointed to the District Court bench. He served as Chief Judge and Business Court Judge along with handling a variety of civil and criminal cases. He has been active in groups fighting domestic violence and also co-chairs the Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee, the Access to Justice Commission, and the Specialty Court Funding Committee. He will serve as Chief Justice during 2011. His term expires in January 2013.



Justice Michael A. Cherry has been an attorney in Nevada since 1970 when he became a Deputy Clark County Public Defender. He then became a private attorney and served as Special Master in the MGM Grand Hotel and Las Vegas Hilton Hotel fire litigation cases. In 1997, Justice Cherry returned to public service as the newly created Clark County Special Public Defender. In 1998, he was elected a District Court judge in Clark County. In 2006, he was elected to his current seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. A graduate of Washington University School of Law, Justice Cherry chairs the Indigent Defense Commission that is examining how the justice system deals with criminal defendants who cannot hire their own attorneys. He also is the supervising justice over the Senior Justice and Judge Program. His term expires in January 2013.



Justice Nancy M. Saitta began her judicial career when she was appointed as a Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge in 1996. Two years later she was elected to the District Court in Clark County, where she created the specialized Complex Litigation Division for case management of construction defect and other voluminous cases. The achievement received national recognition in 2003. At the Supreme Court, she is chair of the Court Improvement Committee and the Judicial Public Information Committee. Prior to taking the bench, she was a Senior Deputy Attorney General and served as the Children's Advocate for the State of Nevada. She also has private practice experience in civil litigation. A graduate of Wayne State University, Justice Saitta's term ends in January 2013.

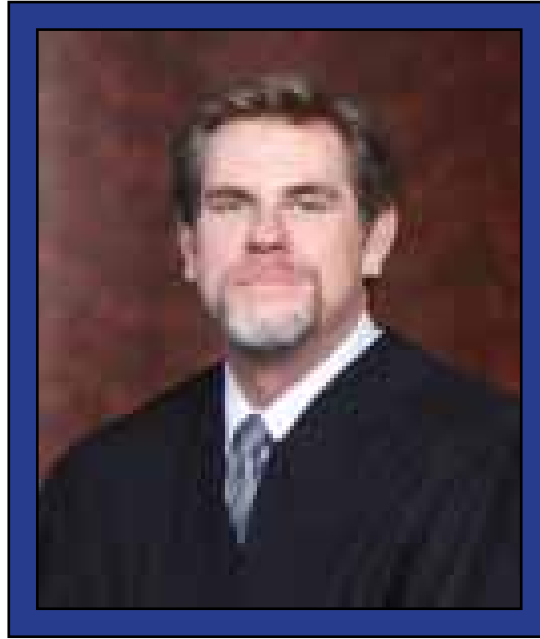


Justice Mark Gibbons was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2002 after serving 6 years as a District Judge in Clark County, where he presided over 120 jury trials, including 13 murder cases. Prior to becoming a judge, he had a long career as a private attorney specializing in real estate related litigation. His judicial career has been marked by a commitment to modernizing Nevada's court system. On the District Court, he served as Chief Judge and was appointed to the Supreme Court's Jury Improvement Commission. At the Supreme Court, he served as Chief Justice in 2008 and as chair of the Specialty Court Funding Committee and the Supreme Court's Information Technology and Safety Committees. A graduate of Loyola University School of Law, Justice Gibbons is in his second term, which ends in 2015.



Justice Kristina Pickering grew up in northern Nevada, graduating from Reno High School before attending Yale University on a scholarship and graduating from the University of California, Davis, School of Law as one of the top five students. Justice Pickering began her career as law clerk for United States District Judge Bruce R. Thompson in Reno. She then practiced law for 28 years in both Reno and Las Vegas, handling complex civil litigation at both the trial and appellate level before her election to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2008. Over the course of her legal career, Justice Pickering served in a variety of positions to improve the legal profession and court system in Nevada. She also served on committees at the state and national levels addressing court rules, lawyer ethics and professional conduct. Her term ends in January 2015.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



Fiscal Year 2010 was a year of unprecedented economic turmoil in Nevada. The Judicial Branch of Government was challenged in a manner never seen in recent history. We were faced with new tasks and heavy caseloads while being asked to do more with fewer resources. The courts met these challenges and examined operations to realize all possible efficiencies. In Nevada, the doors of our courthouses remain open to those seeking redress and justice. We have even managed to expand access to justice for the ever-increasing number of individuals who find themselves attempting to navigate a complex legal system alone because they cannot afford legal representation.

Our report demonstrates the hard work and dedication of Judges and staff throughout the state. It also illustrates the enthusiasm of the judicial body to be a partner in helping to meet the demands of a public frustrated by current economic and social hardships. The Judiciary's efforts in support of programs such as Specialty Courts, Access to Justice, and Foreclosure Mediation go beyond our core functions of hearing and determining causes and controversies. The courts, however, realize the value and benefit to our communities that these programs provide and are committed to contributing the hard work necessary to ensure continued success.

Nevada's Justices, and many members of the Judiciary, have struggled with some of the highest individual caseloads in the country. Still, they have maintained an ability to resolve cases in a timely manner. As demonstrated in this year's report, technology has been a factor in allowing the Judiciary to realize efficiencies and streamline cumbersome, time-consuming tasks. The Supreme Court and our urban jurisdictions have now implemented e-filing, avoiding the need to handle and process hundreds of thousands of pages of documents each week. Many of our limited jurisdiction courts are migrating to online fine and fee payment systems, which free-up staff processing time and provide the public with a fast and convenient way to satisfy their obligations. We have also been able to assist our rural jurisdictions in their quest to utilize technology to better serve their communities. The Supreme Court created rules, and along with the State Bar of Nevada, Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction, and Court Improvement Project grants, supplied equipment and video conference systems to rural courts that enable remote appearances and ensure cost effective and timely access to the courts.

Your Nevada Courts are recognized as being innovative, efficient, and well ahead of the curve in developing programs that benefit the State in so many ways. Despite current financial limitations, we will continue to provide fair, impartial, and expeditious considerations of the cases that come before us.

On a final note, I would like to express my appreciation to the staff who worked to develop this annual report. Due to their talents, this year we were able to perform the formatting, layout, and design in house, which allowed us to realize substantial budget savings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Parraguirre". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ron D. Parraguirre
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Nevada

NEVADA'S COURT STRUCTURE

The Nevada Judiciary is the Third Branch of government — as equal and independent as the Executive and Legislative Branches. Empowered by the Nevada Constitution, judges play a vital role in our democratic system of checks and balances to guarantee our citizens have access to fair and impartial justice under the law.

Our justices and judges are responsible for resolving legal disputes as quickly and fairly as possible. As the chart below demonstrates, our court system consists of the Nevada Supreme Court, the state's highest court and only appellate court; and three levels of trial courts: the District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

Comprised of **7 Justices**, this is the state's ultimate judicial authority. Supreme Court decisions become the law of the land. The primary job of the Justices is to rule on appeals from the trial courts, determining if legal errors were committed in court cases or whether verdicts and judgments were fair and correct. The Justices sit in panels of three for the majority of cases, or as the full court to decide the most significant legal issues.

The Supreme Court is the administrative head of the entire legal system. The Justices oversee the courts and issue rules governing everything from the court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

The Supreme Court also can create commissions and committees to study the judicial system and recommend changes and improvements, something that has been done with great success in recent years.

The Justices also fulfill a constitutional responsibility by sitting on the state's Board of Pardons along with the Governor and Attorney General, to review requests for mercy from convicted criminals.

CLERK of the COURT

Responsible for all Supreme Court files and documents, manages the Court's caseload and dockets, coordinates public hearings, and releases the Court's decisions. Tracie Lindeman is the Clerk of the Court.

ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICE of the COURTS

Performs all administrative functions for the Supreme Court and provides support services to the trial courts in such areas as training and technology. Ronald R. Titus is the State Court Administrator.

LAW LIBRARY

Houses law books and other documents in its facility at the Supreme Court in Carson City. The Library is used, not only by the Court's law clerks, but also by the public. Kathleen Harrington is the Law Librarian.

■
■ Appeals

DISTRICT COURTS

These are courts of "general jurisdiction" where major civil and criminal cases are decided. Nevada's **72 District Court Judges** preside over felony and gross misdemeanor trials, civil cases with a value above \$10,000, family law matters, and juvenile issues involving crime, abuse, and neglect. Appeals of District Court cases go to the Supreme Court.

■
■ Appeals

JUSTICE COURTS

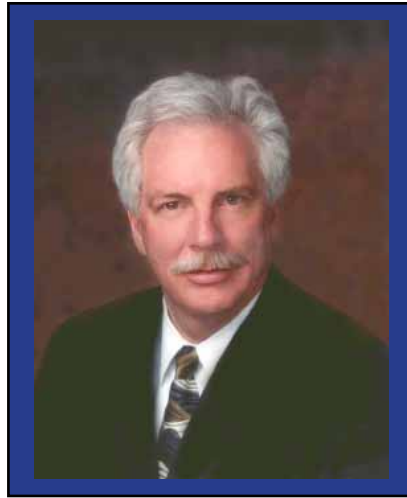
65 Justices of the Peace* preside over preliminary matters in felony and gross misdemeanor cases in these "limited jurisdiction" courts. Justice Courts also have original jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes, traffic matters, civil cases up to \$10,000 and landlord-tenant disputes. Decisions in Justice Court cases may be appealed to the District Courts.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

30 Municipal Court Judges* preside over misdemeanor crimes and traffic cases in incorporated communities. The judges also preside over some civil matters under NRS 5.050, primarily involving the collection of debts owed their cities. Like the Justice Courts, these are courts of "limited jurisdiction" and appeals of decisions are made to the District Courts.

* Nine limited jurisdiction judges serve their communities as both justices of the peace and municipal judge.

A REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



Fiscal year 2010 was a challenging year for Nevada courts. Every court in the state had to deal with budget cuts, yet maintain services to defendants, litigants, and the public in general. This Annual Report documents the work of our courts, including the work of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, the work of the various commissions and committees created by the Supreme Court to assist with the administration of the Judiciary, accomplishments of courts and individuals, and finally, the caseload statistics of each of our courts at every level.

A major accomplishment was the creation of the Foreclosure Mediation Program. The Supreme Court appointed the Administrative Office of the Courts as the Program Administrator. The legislation creating the program was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in June 2009. The legislation required the program to begin on July 1. Rules had to be drafted and adopted by the Supreme Court, procedures had to be developed, staff needed to be hired, and mediators had to be recruited and trained. Almost every member of the AOC was called on to help get this program off the ground during this start up year. The first mediation was conducted September 14, 2009. One year later, the program is in full swing with its own staff, a customized case management system, and more than 4,000 mediations already held. Additional program information is contained in this report.

More than a million cases were handled by our trial courts during fiscal year 2010, when virtually every court was facing budget constraints. In excess of 400,000 non-traffic cases – involving civil, criminal, family, and juvenile case types – were processed by the trial courts. More than 600,000 traffic cases were handled by the limited jurisdiction courts.

Although our caseload statistics are more complete than ever before, we are always trying to improve. The appendix tables, previously provided at the end of our annual reports, are again available online this year and can be accessed via our web page, www.nevadajudiciary.us. These tables include additional statistics not available in previous years, such as more categories of crimes. Additional information about civil and family cases will be available in future years.

We hope you find this report useful. Feel free to comment about this report by emailing us at aocmail@nvcourts.nv.gov. You may also visit our website for up-to-date information concerning Nevada's courts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Titus".

Ron Titus
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
State Court Administrator
Supreme Court of Nevada

DISTRICT COURTS AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

(as of June 30, 2010)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge James Todd Russell
Judge James Wilson, Jr.

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Brent Adams
Judge Janet Berry
Judge Frances Doherty
Judge Steve Elliott
Judge Patrick Flanagan
Judge Linda Gardner
Judge David Hardy
Judge Steven Kosach
Judge Bridget Robb Peck
Judge Robert Perry
Judge Jerome Polaha
Judge Deborah Schumacher
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Judge Chuck Weller

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Leon Aberasturi
Judge David Huff
Judge William Rogers

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Memeo
Judge Andrew Puccinelli

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge John Davis
Judge Robert Lane

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Montero
Judge Richard Wagner

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Steven Dobrescu
Judge Dan Papez

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Valerie Adair
Judge David Barker
Judge Linda Bell
Judge James Bixler
Judge Elissa Cadish
Judge Kenneth Cory
Judge Kathleen Delaney
Judge Mark Denton
Judge Bryce Duckworth
Judge Allan Earl
Judge Jennifer Elliott
Judge Cynthia Giuliani
Judge Jackie Glass

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

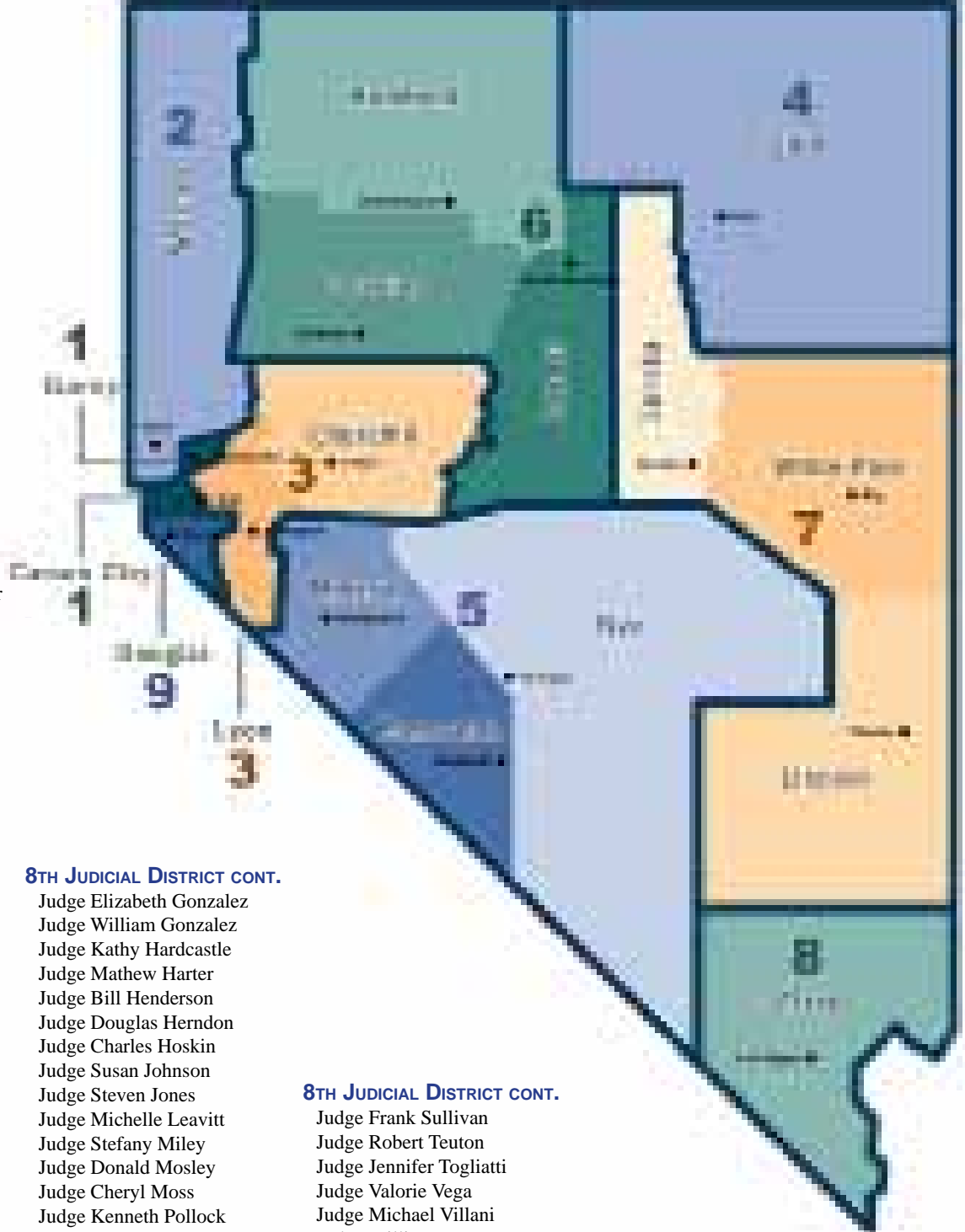
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez
Judge William Gonzalez
Judge Kathy Hardcastle
Judge Mathew Harter
Judge Bill Henderson
Judge Douglas Herndon
Judge Charles Hoskin
Judge Susan Johnson
Judge Steven Jones
Judge Michelle Leavitt
Judge Stefany Miley
Judge Donald Mosley
Judge Cheryl Moss
Judge Kenneth Pollock
Judge Sandra Pomrenze
Judge William Potter
Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
Judge Gloria Sanchez
Judge Abbi Silver
Judge Douglas Smith
Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

Judge Frank Sullivan
Judge Robert Teuton
Judge Jennifer Togliatti
Judge Valorie Vega
Judge Michael Villani
Judge William Voy
Judge David Wall
Judge Jessie Walsh
Judge Timothy Williams

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge David Gamble
Judge Michael Gibbons



JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS

JUSTICE COURT JUDGES

(as of June 30, 2010)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CARSON CITY

Carson City Township

Judge John Tatro*
Judge Robey Willis*

STOREY COUNTY

Virginia City Township

Judge Annette Daniels

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

WASHOE COUNTY

Incline Village Township

Judge E. Alan Tiras

Reno Township

Judge Harold Albright
Judge Barbara Finley
Judge Patricia Lynch
Judge Jack Schroeder
Judge Pete Sferrazza

Sparks Township

Judge Susan Deriso
Judge Kevin Higgins

Wadsworth Township

Judge Terry Graham

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHURCHILL COUNTY

New River Township

Judge Mike Richards

LYON COUNTY

Canal Township

Judge Robert Bennett

Dayton Township

Judge Camille Vecchiarelli

Walker River Township

Judge Michael Fletcher

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ELKO COUNTY

Carlin Township

Judge Teri Feasel*

East Line Township

Judge Reese Melville*

Elko Township

Judge Alvin Kacin*

Jackpot Township

Judge Phyllis Black

Wells Township

Judge Patricia Calton*

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ESMERALDA COUNTY

Esmeralda Township

Judge Juanita Colvin

MINERAL COUNTY

Hawthorne Township

Judge Jay T. Gunter

NYE COUNTY

Beatty Township

Judge Gus Sullivan

Pahrump Township

Judge Christina Brisebill
Judge Kent Jaspersen

Tonopah Township

Judge Joe Maslach

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Union Township

Judge Gene Wambolt

LANDER COUNTY

Argenta Township

Judge Max Bunch

Austin Township

Judge Joseph Dory

PERSHING COUNTY

Lake Township

Judge Carol Nelsen

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

EUREKA COUNTY

Beowawe Township

Judge Susan Fye

Eureka Township

Judge John Schwebel

LINCOLN COUNTY

Meadow Valley Township

Judge Mike Cowley

Pahrangat Valley Township

Judge Nola Holton*

WHITE PINE COUNTY

Ely (No. 1) Township

Judge Ronald Niman

Lund (No. 2) Township

Judge Russel Peacock

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CLARK COUNTY

Boulder Township

Judge Victor Miller*

Bunkerville Township

Judge Darryll Dodenbier

Goodsprings Township

Judge Dawn Haviland

Henderson Township

Judge Rodney Burr

Judge Stephen George

Judge David Gibson, Sr.

Las Vegas Township

Judge Anthony Abbatangelo

Judge Melanie Andress-Tobiasson

Judge Karen Bennett-Haron

Judge Joe Bonaventure

Judge Eric Goodman

CLARK COUNTY CONT.

Judge William Jansen

Judge Deborah Lippis

Judge Nancy Oesterle

Judge Melissa Saragosa

Judge Joseph Sciscento

Judge Diana Sullivan

Judge Ann Zimmerman

Laughlin Township

Judge Tim Atkins

Mesquite Township

Judge Ron Dodd*

Moapa Township

Judge Ruth Kolhoss

Moapa Valley Township

Judge Lanny Waite

North Las Vegas Township

Judge Stephen Dahl

Judge Natalie Tyrrell

Judge Chris Lee

Searchlight Township

Judge Stanton Colton

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DOUGLAS COUNTY

East Fork Township

Judge James EnEarl

Tahoe Township

Judge Richard Glasson

* Also serves as Municipal Court Judge

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

(as of June 30, 2010)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City

Judge John Tatro**
Judge Robey Willis**

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Reno

Judge Jay Dilworth
Judge Paul Hickman
Judge Kenneth Howard
Judge James Van Winkle

Sparks

Judge Barbara McCarthy
Judge Jim Spoo

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fallon

Judge Mike Lister

Fernley

Judge Daniel Bauer

Yerington

Judge Frances Vidal

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carlin

Judge Teri Feasel**

Elko

Judge Alvin Kacin**

Wells

Judge Patricia Calton**

West Wendover

Judge Reese Melville**

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Caliente

Judge Nola Holton**

Ely

Judge Michael Kalleres

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Boulder City

Judge Victor Miller**

Henderson

Judge Diana Hampton
Judge Douglas Hedger
Judge Mark Stevens

Las Vegas

Judge George Assad
Judge Bert Brown
Judge Martin Hastings
Judge Cedric Kerns
Judge Elizabeth Kolkoski
Judge Cynthia Leung

Mesquite

Judge Ron Dodd**

North Las Vegas

Judge Sean Hoeffgen
Judge Warren Van Landschoot

** Also serves as Justice of the Peace

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada fulfills a vital role in the administration of justice in Nevada. Comprised of judges from every court level, along with administrators and representatives of judicial organizations, the Judicial Council helps the Nevada Supreme Court fulfill its role as administrative head of the Judicial Branch.

The Judicial Council remains a unifying entity in a state that has a modest population, but covers more than 100,000 square miles.

The Judicial Council members meet in regional councils to address the issues unique to their areas – whether they are the urban problems of Las Vegas and Reno, or the challenges of rural mining or ranching communities. The regional councils have given voices to the courts and citizens of those geographic areas.

The five regional Judicial Councils together form the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada with a mission of uniting and promoting Nevada’s Judiciary as an equal, independent, and effective branch of government.

During fiscal year 2010, the Judicial Council revised and drafted a series of Standardized Protection Order Forms to make the application process and court orders more uniform while maintaining compliance with Nevada statutes.

A vital role of the Judicial Council is to approve disbursement of the money available to fund Nevada’s existing

Specialty Courts – such as Drug and Mental Health Courts – while allowing the establishment of additional Specialty Courts throughout Nevada.

Standing committees have been established by the Judicial Council.

Legislation and Rules to promote and support a coordinated approach to legislation affecting the Judiciary.

Education to promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary and staff.

Technology to promote and facilitate the use of technology by the courts and promote the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology with state and local governments.

Certified Court Interpreters Advisory Committee to develop Certified Court Interpreter Program policies.

Specialty Court Funding to establish procedures for courts requesting Specialty Court funds, including the development of funding criteria and reporting requirements.

Court Improvement Program for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children to improve the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system through initiatives to improve efficiency, reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care, and place abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.

TRANSITIONS

FORMER JUSTICE E.M. “AL” GUNDERSON

Former Nevada Supreme Court Justice E.M. “Al” Gunderson, who served 18 years on the high court, died May 13, 2010, at his Las Vegas home. He was 80. On three occasions he served as chief justice.

Justice Gunderson was elected to the state Supreme Court in November 1970 and retired at the end of 1988.

After retiring from the Supreme Court, Justice Gunderson taught classes at Southwestern Law School in California before once again returning to Las Vegas to practice law.

FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE MARIO RECANZONE

Former Third Judicial District Judge Mario Giovanni Recanzone, a longtime Fallon civic leader, passed away at the Northern Nevada Medical Center in Sparks on April 26, 2010. He was 88.

He was appointed to the Third Judicial District Court bench in 1982, sitting in both Lyon and Churchill Counties. Judge Recanzone retired in 1997.

FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE JAMES GUINAN

Retired Second Judicial District Judge James Joseph Guinan died May 21, 2010, at his home in Reno. Judge Guinan was born on September 21, 1923, in Evanston, Ill. He was appointed to Department 6 seat in 1972 and served until his retirement on June 30, 1989.

FORMER MUNICIPAL JUDGE JOHN PROVOST

Former Henderson Municipal Judge John Provost, 48, died at his home in July 2009. Judge Provost served from 1996, when he was appointed, until 2003.

FUNDING THE COURTS

Funding for the state judicial system is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts under the direction of the Supreme Court. The state judicial system is funded from a variety of sources, primarily from the state's general fund and from administrative assessments on misdemeanor cases, including traffic.

For fiscal year 2010, the Legislature appropriated \$25,391,220¹ or 0.79 percent of the statewide general fund appropriation, to the state judicial system from the state's general fund and authorized \$28,547,106 from administrative assessment revenue and other funding sources, for a total of \$53,938,326 to fund the cost of the state court system.

While the Legislature provided funding of \$53,938,326 for the state judicial system, due to budget cuts, decreases in administrative assessments revenue, and general savings only \$46,741,212 was actually spent during fiscal year 2010 (see the pie charts below).

The 26th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature held in March 2010 reduced the court's appropriation by \$1,055,640 over the biennium. The Supreme Court applied \$766,884 or 73 percent of this required reduction in fiscal year 2010. Also, administrative assessments were 3.77 percent or \$616,352, less than authorized by the legislature for fiscal year 2010 bringing the total reductions required in fiscal year 2010 to \$1,383,236. The remaining differences are reserves in accounts funded solely from administrative assessments and other fees. These reserves are required to carry forward necessary funds to the following fiscal year to cover beginning year costs.

¹ This amount excludes the state's appropriation to fund the judicial retirement system and the judicial discipline process.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 EXPENDITURES OF THE STATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The state judicial system cost \$46,741,212 to operate in fiscal year 2010, of which 39 percent funds judicial salaries (Justices and District Judges). The remaining costs were primarily for the operation of the Supreme Court, its Law Library, and for administrative and judicial support.

Of the total cost, \$24,575,118 was funded from the state's general fund. The general fund portion of the budget funded the salaries of the 7 Supreme Court Justices and 72 District Court Judges elected in the state, the senior judge coverage in District Courts to address congested caseloads, the state's Law Library, judicial programs, and the judicial selection process.

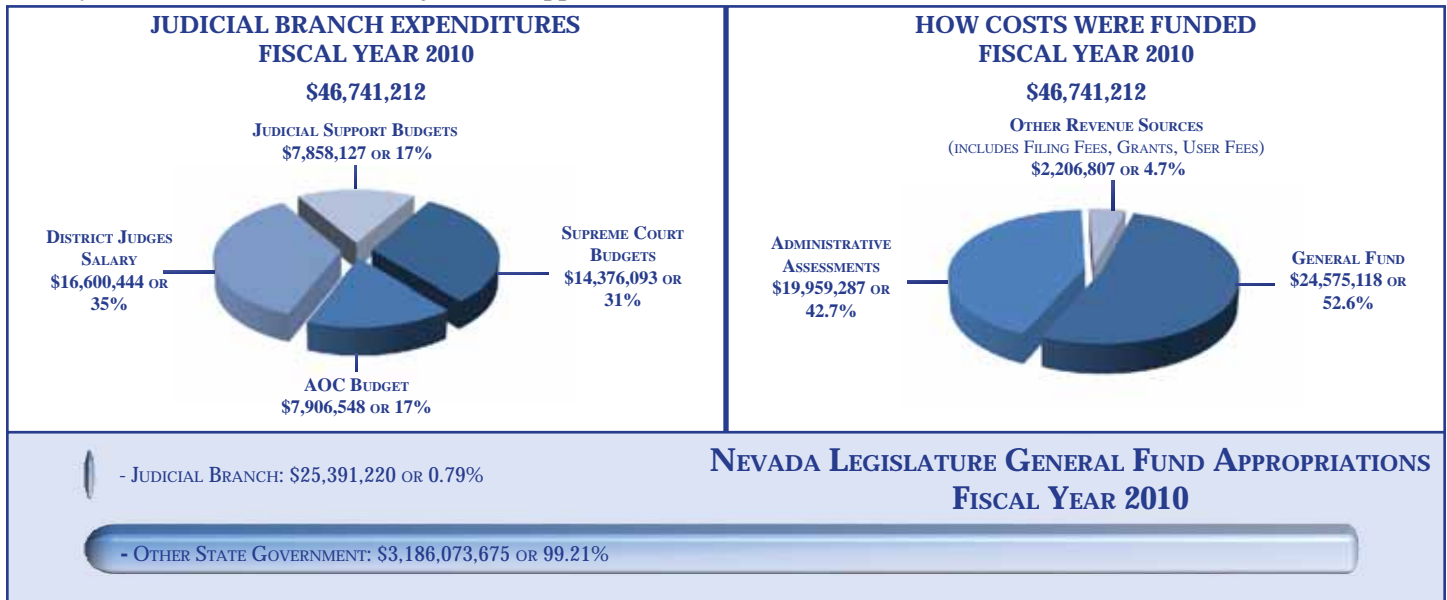
FUTURE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE COURT SYSTEM

Because of the way the state court system is funded, and its dependency on administrative assessment revenue, future funding requirements of the state court system remain uncertain. In the past, because administrative assessment revenue was increasing by double-digit percentages, the state court system relied less on the state general fund to fund its costs; however, administrative assessment revenue, like other state revenue sources, saw its growth diminish during the fiscal year and likely will not experience the growth patterns of the past until the economy recovers. The state judicial system, like other state entities, is working diligently to reduce and stabilize its expenditures, and yet continues to meet the needs of the state judicial system. The Supreme Court is committed to conserve its resources and assist our state in the challenging economic times.

As Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre said, "We will continue to do all we can to be careful stewards of the public's funds and we will do so while ensuring the access to the justice our state's residents and businesses require."

FUNDING OTHER COURTS IN THE STATE

Counties and cities fund all the costs associated with District, Justice, and Municipal Courts, with the exception of the salaries, education costs, and some travel of District Court Judges. The majority of the costs, facilities and staff, for the District Courts are borne by the counties where the courts operate. The counties also pay salaries and all costs for Justice Courts. Incorporated cities fund the entire costs of the Municipal Courts.



FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Nevada Legislature created the Nevada Foreclosure Mediation program with the passage of Assembly Bill 149 (AB149) at the end of the 2009 legislative session. The purpose was to address the foreclosure crisis in Nevada by establishing a mediation system that would ensure that homeowners and lenders can meet with trained mediators to explore alternatives to foreclosure.

The Nevada Supreme Court was tasked by AB149 with overseeing establishment of the program by authorizing rules, selecting mediators, developing training programs, and designating the program administrator. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was named, as an independent entity, to serve as program administrator. The effective date of AB149 was July 1, 2009, and although the Foreclosure Mediation Program had no start-up funds, no staff, no trained mediators, and no facilities, the Court acted promptly to fulfill its obligation. Despite the lack of infrastructure, cases were processed and the first mediation was held on September 14, 2009.

The Foreclosure Mediation Program is open only to homeowners of owner-occupied houses who receive a foreclosure notice – formally titled Notice of Default (or Breach) and Election to Sell – filed on or after July 1, 2009. The program is unique in the nation because AB149 requires that lenders sit down with requesting homeowners and mediate in good faith. Lenders who do not abide by the law and program rules will not be issued a required certificate to proceed to foreclosure.

During the program's first year, from July 2009 to June 2010, a total of 79,232 Notices of Default were filed in Nevada, indicating homeowners were delinquent in their home loan payments and risked foreclosure.

Upon the filing of a Notice of Default (NOD) with the County Recorder, lenders are required by AB149 and the Foreclosure Mediation Program rules to advise homeowners of the right to elect mediation through the Foreclosure Mediation Program by providing an election form and other required documents. All required documents and the non-refundable mediation fee of \$200 must be returned within 30 days of receipt of the NOD. Homeowners also may choose to waive mediation, which will allow foreclosure to proceed.

The Foreclosure Mediation Program has been called “mediation with a kick” because once homeowners elect

to participate in the program, the lender is required by AB149 to participate in the mediation in accordance with the statute and the rules. Lenders are required to submit an original or certified copy of the Deed of Trust, Note and all assignments, as well as other documentation such as appraisals and/or Brokers Price Opinions. Lenders are also required to submit a non-refundable \$200 mediation fee per mediation. The combined \$400 fee collected from the homeowner and lender is paid to the designated mediator. Under AB149, the lender's representative must have the authority to negotiate and modify the loan and have the authority to negotiate other alternatives to foreclosure.

If the lender does not mediate in good faith, bring the required documents, or have someone available with appropriate authority to negotiate or modify a loan, the program will not issue a certificate to proceed with foreclosure. As a result, lenders must record a new Notice of Default to restart the foreclosure process. During this time, the homeowner remains in the home. Lenders, therefore, are motivated to participate in the program.

The Foreclosure Mediation Program is funded by the fees paid by lenders to record Notices of Default, rather than taxpayer dollars. Mediation fees also are paid by the lender and homeowner making the program financially self-sufficient.

During the Foreclosure Mediation Program's first year, the number of homeowners electing to participate in mediation totaled 8,738. Mediators were assigned 6,164 mediations, and the number of mediations completed totaled 4,212. Of the total number of mediations completed, only 445 or 11 percent resulted in the issuance of a certificate allowing foreclosure to proceed. A total of 3,767, or 89 percent of the mediations completed, resulted in no foreclosure and no certificate issued by the program.

Agreements were reached between the lender and the homeowner in 2,590 cases, or 61 percent of the mediations completed. Of those homeowners who reached an agreement, 668 voluntarily agreed to vacate their homes for reasons such as short sales, representing 16 percent. However, 1,922 homeowners who reached an agreement with the lender remained in their homes through loan modification. This represents 46 percent of the total number of the 4,212 mediations completed by the program between July 2009 and June 2010.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

JUDICIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The Supreme Court's Judicial Public Information Committee expanded its role of providing an educational and informational voice for the courts. The Committee spearheaded the efforts to update Supreme Court Rules on cameras in the courtrooms and expanded the Court's website.

"It is vital that the courts let the public know about the role the judiciary plays in protecting our rights and ensuring that everyone has an avenue to seek justice," said Justice Nancy M. Saitta, chair of the Judicial Public Information Committee. "The Judicial Public Information Committee has taken the lead, through various means referenced in this annual report, to detail the achievements of the courts and the impact the Judicial Branch has on all our lives."

The emphasis for fiscal year 2010 was on Law Day 2010, with its variety of forums and activities throughout the state. The focal point was the technologically innovative Law Day Live that attracted attention from as far away as New York.

LAW DAY LIVE

Every year, our nation celebrates Law Day to mark our commitment to the justice system and the rule of law, but in Nevada the Judicial Public Information Committee took Law Day 2010 to a higher level.

Of course there were the traditional forums at schools and essay and poster contests sponsored by the State Bar, around the American Bar Association's theme of "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges." But Nevada expanded that by adopting the theme of "Technology and the Courts."

The showpiece of Law Day 2010 was *LAW DAY LIVE*, a 2-hour interactive Internet forum that originated from the state's four population centers – Carson City, Elko, Las Vegas, and Reno – and was webcast over the Nevada Supreme Court website.

Law Day Live let Nevada use today's technology to explore hot button issues of cyberbullying and sexting that are a result of the misuse of today's technology and are challenging our judges and educators every day.

Cyberbullying, unfortunately, became particularly relevant when a 15-year-old girl in Boston hanged herself after suffering relentless harassment from fellow students through text messages and Facebook exchanges. Courts throughout the country struggle with sexting issues because personally shared photos sometimes do not stay personal.

Those possessing the photos can get caught up in current child pornography laws, which can result in lengthy prison terms and requirements to register as sex offenders.

A third segment on the future of court technology gave a peek at how justice might be administered in the not-too-distant future as technology continues to offer new opportunities in communication.

Law Day Live was viewed throughout the state and used as a teaching tool in several schools, with classrooms joining as their schedules allowed. Broadcast over the Supreme Court's website, Law Day Live had the ability to be viewed worldwide. Students, or any viewer, could comment or ask questions through Twitter and Facebook links.

LAW DAY CELEBRATED FOR MONTH OF MAY

In Nevada, Law Day 2010 was expanded into Law Month because it was impossible to meet the demands during a single day for the traditional Law Day forums involving justices, judges, attorneys, educators, and law enforcement professionals. Throughout Nevada, these panels spoke about technology driven issues in the courts in keeping with this year's ABA Law Day theme. The theme was also an integral part of student poster and essay contests that were conducted by the Young Lawyer Section of the State Bar of Nevada in conjunction with the Judiciary and schools across the state.



(1-Red Rock Canyon)

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 6 COMMISSION

The Article 6 Commission of the Nevada Supreme Court conducted a public meeting during fiscal year 2010 to address a proposed plan for creation of a statewide system to evaluate the performances of Nevada's judges.

The Commission believed judicial evaluations could assist voters in determining if a sitting judge is worthy of being returned to the bench and can also be useful to the judges themselves.

The meeting was video conferenced between the Supreme Court's courtroom in Carson City and its southern courtroom at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. Public comment from both locations was taken by the Commission to supplement the final report on the Nevada Judicial Evaluation project. The supplemental report is on the Supreme Court website at www.nevadajudiciary.us.

The judicial evaluation plan was developed by a subcommittee of the Article 6 Commission, which in conjunction with the Grant Sawyer Center for Judicial

Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, studied performance evaluation programs from around the country. As a result, they created a plan that met the judicial performance evaluation needs specific to Nevada. While the Supreme Court favors the model developed by the Commission, financial limitations will prevent the court from implementing judicial performance evaluations at this time.

The Commission is named after Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution, which established the Judicial Branch. The long-term mission of the Commission is to take a broad look at matters affecting the Judiciary and make recommendations for improvements.

The Commission, which is composed of private citizens as well as judges and attorneys, previously addressed such issues as judicial discipline, campaign contributions, the perception of the judicial system, and specialty courts.

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Court Improvement Program for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children, better known as the CIP Select Committee, is chaired by Justice Nancy M. Saitta. The strategic mission, purpose, and goals of CIP are to improve the interrelated systems serving the children and families who enter the child welfare system. The program operates through team-oriented court and agency initiatives. The ultimate goal of CIP is to improve the effectiveness of these systems, thereby placing children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.

Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), were awarded to CIP under the provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. The funds are used by the State of Nevada, through the Supreme Court, to bring together a wide range of collaborative partners to identify strengths and weaknesses in Nevada's response to abuse and neglect, and to create strategies to better protect children while strengthening families. The funds are disbursed through sub-grants, contracts, and training sessions to address identified areas within the family court system in need of improvement, such as early representation of children, and reducing barriers to permanent placement of children.

The CIP Select Committee develops annual strategic plans to guide meaningful change throughout the child welfare court system, and to determine which projects to fund.

Some of the successful projects piloted in various locations throughout the state during fiscal year 2010 as a

result of cooperation between the courts and state, local, and federal partners include:

- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Surrogate Education Advocacy
- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Early Representation Program
- Preliminary work on data exchange project
- Rural Courts Video Conferencing Project – Phase I
- Judges and Judicial Officers Survey on legal representation practices in Nevada on 432B cases



(2-Delmar, NV)

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

RECORDS COMMISSION

The Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records continued its work examining the way court records and evidence are handled and making recommendations to the Nevada Supreme Court.

“The work of this commission furthers the Supreme Court’s commitment to preserve the public nature of the business of the judicial branch and its records,” said Justice James W. Hardesty, who chairs the Commission.

During fiscal year 2010, the Evidence Subcommittee recommended an evidence protocol, and the Administrative Records Retention Subcommittee recommended a records retention schedule for administrative court records.

The Supreme Court issued an Order Adopting the Protocol for Storage, Retention, and Destruction of Evidence effective April 9, 2010. The protocol was developed by the Evidence Subcommittee, and serves as a

guideline for Nevada Courts in the storage, retention, and destruction of evidence. The protocol outlines the:

- Preparation and safekeeping of exhibits
- Required exhibit storage
- Preservation of biological evidence
- Procedures for the return and destruction of civil and criminal exhibits

The Nevada Supreme Court issued an Order Adopting the Retention Schedule for Administrative Court Records, effective May 13, 2010, that had been developed by the Administrative Records Retention Subcommittee. The update of the records retention schedule from 1996 established the minimum time administrative court records must be kept to satisfy operational, legal, fiscal, and historical needs. The purpose of the retention schedule is to provide guidelines to the courts for the retention, storage, and destruction of administrative court records.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Access to Justice Commission was appointed by the Nevada Supreme Court to:

- Assess current and future needs for civil legal services for persons of limited means in Nevada.
- Develop statewide policies designed to support and improve the delivery of legal services.
- Improve self-help services and opportunities for proper person litigants and increase pro bono activities.
- Develop programs to increase public awareness of the impact that limited access to justice has on other government services and on society.
- Investigate the availability of and pursue increased public and private financing to support legal services organizations and other efforts to provide legal services to persons of limited means.
- Recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice to the Supreme Court.

During fiscal year 2010, the Commission continued to work to open the courthouse doors wider for those who come to the courts for assistance in resolving their disputes. Rural courts and their residents were aided by expanded video and telephonic options aided rural residents and courts, while a new Civil Law Self-Help Center in Las Vegas assisted those who live in Nevada’s most populous county and are representing themselves in court.

REMOTE APPEARANCE OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED

The technologically innovative Video Conferencing Project, which facilitates remote court appearances, assisted several courts in obtaining the video conference systems that provide a vital communication link. During fiscal year 2010, six courts received equipment from the Court Improvement Project grant, two courts received equipment from the State Bar of Nevada Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) grant, and one court received equipment from a grant provided by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction.

On March 1, 2009, a new Nevada Supreme Court rule opened the door to remote appearances by attorneys and other parties for many matters in civil cases, including family law cases. The appearances by telephonic or video conference links made it possible and practical for lawyers to represent clients throughout the state without the costly and time consuming travel that had been required. The rule also increased the availability of pro bono legal services in rural Nevada, where few attorneys practice.

“The advances in technology allowing litigants and lawyers to attend court hearings from remote locations made it possible to dramatically improve access to legal services throughout Nevada,” said Justice Mark Gibbons, who spearheaded the rule change by the high court. “Helping courts in many of our struggling rural communities obtain this technology benefits not only the lawyers and litigants, but the interests of justice as well.”

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONT.

CLARK AND WASHOE COUNTY CIVIL SELF-HELP CENTERS

To assist the increasing number of Nevadans representing themselves in civil matters, the Clark County Courts officially opened its Civil Law Self-Help Center during ceremonies on January 14, 2010.

Located on the first floor of the Regional Justice Center in downtown Las Vegas, the Civil Law Self-Help Center provides self-represented litigants with the tools to effectively prepare for court. The center offers common civil forms, education, and self-help legal information to those wishing to represent themselves in civil matters in the court system.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada provides staffing for the center, which includes a lawyer and two bilingual paralegals. These individuals remain neutral and do not offer legal advice. They do, however, provide education and assistance to individuals. The center offers assistance in the following legal topics: civil actions, landlord-tenant and evictions, mediation, protection orders, and small claims. A mediator is also available to offer litigants the option of using no cost resolution programs to settle their matters outside a courtroom.

The center, also offers individuals online opportunities to prepare legal documents over the Internet. The website can be found at <http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/self-help.html>.

The Second Judicial District in Washoe County also offers self-help services. Their online forms and information can be accessed on their website at www.washoecourts.com.

IOLTA RULE CHANGES EXPAND INDIGENT REPRESENTATION

The Supreme Court changed rules for attorneys during fiscal year 2010 that will have a direct impact on the funding of legal services for indigents. The Interest

on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) rule changes require attorneys to maintain trust accounts only at banks that meet established criteria, including the payment of preferential interest rates. Interest from attorney trust accounts is used to help provide legal assistance in civil cases for those without the means to hire their own attorneys.

Acting on the recommendation of the Access to Justice Commission, co-chaired by Justices James W. Hardesty and Michael L. Douglas, several Nevada banks agreed to increase the interest rates they pay to ensure that the work of the Nevada Law Foundation and legal aid organizations throughout the state could continue.

LAS VEGAS SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT ASSISTS RURAL RESIDENTS

The Las Vegas Senior Citizens Law Project, which offers free legal services to residents of Clark County 60 years and older, which particularly helps those whose legal issues take them to our courts. The Project is also a site where judges and attorneys can refer seniors who are in need of legal advice. The Project received a grant in October 2009 to launch a pilot program to provide legal

services for at-risk seniors living in rural Clark County. The civil legal services are provided free of charge to seniors residing in the rural communities of Searchlight, Laughlin, Overton, Mesquite, Indian Springs, and Sandy Valley. The grant was awarded by the Older Americans



(3-Carson River)

Act and administered by Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division.

The Senior Law Project conducted seminars monthly at locations such as senior centers, community centers, churches, and assisted living facilities. These seminars covered legal and financial topics relevant to seniors including estate planning, asset protection, consumer issues, foreclosure prevention, prevention of elder abuse, and planning for incapacity.

WORK OF THE COURTS

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The mission of the Judicial Education Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is to promote the competency and professionalism of Nevada's judges and court staff. This is achieved through continuing legal education and training.

FOCUS ON CORE EDUCATION

Because of financial limitations during fiscal year 2010, the Judicial Education Unit needed to focus more on core education – primarily through conferences and annual training sessions sponsored by the AOC. The unit could offer only 18 training sessions, which were attended by 308 judges and 484 court executives and staff.

Despite cutbacks, the Unit did provide training in new areas, including indigent defense and the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

“Going forward, the goal is to provide the core education and training needed to ensure baseline competence and to meet mandatory continuing education requirements. Individuals seeking to pursue advanced or specialized training can apply to the judicial education subcommittee of the Judicial Council, which will allocate funds based on need, cost, and available resources,” said Justice Kristina Pickering.

A statewide conference on Specialty Courts was held, along with special sessions for District Judges on

post-conviction remedies and evidence issues. The Family Jurisdiction Judges Annual Conference continued to attract more judges and court masters than previous years.

In addition to the AOC-sponsored conferences and trainings, the Unit provided funds for 138 judges to attend elective and mandated courses during fiscal year 2010. The courses, mandated by statute and the Supreme Court, will continue to be a significant portion of the Judicial Education budget as 12 new judgeships are added in fiscal year 2011 and when judicial vacancies occur.

In fiscal year 2010, education sessions of particular benefit to court staff included the biennial statewide court staff conference for approximately 150 participants. This 3-day conference was preceded by a 1-day new court staff orientation, which drew 65 new staff from around Nevada.

COURT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Court Management Program (CMP) of the national Institute for Court Management (ICM) drew 30-35 trial court administrators and supervisors to each of the 3-day seminars held in fiscal year 2010. This professional development series for Nevada court executives, a partnership of ICM and the Nevada AOC, involves a 6-course series over a 2-year period. The culmination of the CMP was the graduation of 34 Nevada court executives as Certified Court Managers in May.

SUPREME COURT TAKES JUSTICE ON THE ROAD

The Nevada Supreme Court took justice across Nevada during fiscal year 2010 for several days of oral arguments as part of the Court's outreach efforts to let students and citizens see the high court in action.

In September 2009, a Nevada Supreme Court panel held oral arguments, for the first time in Sparks, at the Sparks High School auditorium.

Justice Michael Cherry, a member of the panel said, “The Supreme Court's decision to hold court away from the Court's Carson City and Las Vegas courtrooms provides unique access to the Court process and to the justices for residents as well as students.”

In February 2010, the full court held oral arguments at Bishop Gorman High School, the first time arguments were held at a Las Vegas high school. The next day, a three-justice Supreme Court panel was at the Williams S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In May 2010, as part of Law Day activities, a three-justice panel heard arguments at Churchill County High School in Fallon, 61 miles east of Carson City.

Although the Supreme Court regularly webcasts oral arguments live, many Nevadans and most students do not have an opportunity to watch the Court in person. Taking justice on the road helps to de-mystify the court process. Following the arguments, justices always take questions from students about the appellate court process or their professional lives. Justices, however, cannot answer questions about the cases because of ethical rules.

While the Supreme Court holds most road sessions at high schools, they are still public hearings open to all interested citizens.

Over the years, the Supreme Court has also presided over oral arguments in Tonopah, Elko, Spring Creek, Virginia City, Ely, and Winnemucca. Supreme Court panels also conducted oral arguments at the National Judicial College in Reno.

The Nevada Supreme Court is composed of seven justices, but most cases are decided by three-justice panels to best utilize court time. The Nevada Supreme Court is one of the busiest appellate courts in the nation. The full Supreme Court hears oral arguments in precedent setting cases and all death penalty cases.

WORK OF THE COURTS

COURT SECURITY

SECURITY OF STATE COURTHOUSES BEING STUDIED

The Nevada Judiciary renewed security studies of courthouses throughout the state following a deadly attack on the federal courthouse in Las Vegas on January 4, 2010.

“We have seen what can occur and we need to be sure we can protect our judges, court staff, and citizens,” Chief Justice Ron Parraguire said.

A Court Security Task Force was created to address courthouse security following the shooting of District Judge Chuck Weller in Reno on June 12, 2006. The Judiciary has made significant strides despite fiscal limitations.

The study includes the Supreme Court building in Carson City as well as the county and city court facilities. The facilities other than the Supreme Court building are the responsibility of the cities or counties under the Nevada Constitution, but the Supreme Court is constitutionally the administrative head of the Judicial Branch.

Many of Nevada’s rural counties have aging courthouses that were not constructed to cope with today’s security concerns and even the largest courts struggle to provide adequate protections for those who work in and visit the facilities.

The U.S. Marshals Service has been asked to assist in assessing the security of Nevada’s courthouses. The Marshals Service during 2007 conducted a facility survey on the century-old White Pine County Courthouse in Ely, and concluded that a number of security issues needed to be addressed.

With the current budget crisis, more courts are looking to implement zero or low cost measures to improve security. The Administrative Office of the Courts made available the Rural Grant Program that can help rural courts purchase security equipment. The Supreme Court also developed a court security incident reporting form for courts to use to collect and report security incidents, no matter how small.

During the 2009 Legislature, Assembly Bill 65 allowed the counties to choose to increase filing fees on civil cases by \$20 to provide resources for court security improvements. In Elko, the funds are being used to purchase metal detectors and an X-ray scanner for the courthouse. In Carson City, the fee is being used to replace

outdated tasers and to purchase a new security panic system. Also, bullet resistant material was installed at the security screening area the public uses to enter the city courthouse. Because of security concerns and local budget limitations, the Supreme Court already has provided metal detectors to rural Justice Courts in Wells and Jackpot.



(4-Carson River)

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

A federal grant was awarded allowing the purchase of new radios for all courthouse security staff, Department of Alternative Sentencing officers, and court bailiffs at the Carson City District Court. The radios are on the same frequency as the Carson City Sheriff’s Office, which improves courthouse safety.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

The Las Vegas Fusion Center was created to allow local law enforcement and the courts to share threat assessment information, particularly about groups or individuals that may pose security risks in and around the Regional Justice Center

PAHRUMP JUSTICE COURT

Pahrump Justice Court was approved during fiscal year 2010 for a \$175,000 appropriation through U.S. Senator Harry Reid’s office for courthouse security equipment. The funds will be used to purchase additional security cameras, duress alarms, and fob-entry door locks that can be programmed to ensure access to the facility only by appropriate staff members. The fob-entry system will make a record each time a door is accessed.

WORK OF THE COURTS

TECHNOLOGY



(5-Fly Geysers-Black Rock Desert)

SUPREME COURT E-FILING

The number of cases electronically filed, or e-filed, each month at the Nevada Supreme Court doubled during the program's first year. The Supreme Court's e-filing system, as in other courts, has proven itself by cutting down on the number of paper documents and providing unprecedented convenience and access to documents in both civil and criminal cases. The Office of the Clerk of the Court began accepting both civil and criminal documents for filing on July 30, 2009, through the web-based e-filing system.

E-filing saves time and money for lawyers and litigants because the system allows documents to be filed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and permits attorneys to pay filing fees, and view and print electronic versions of documents. The system provides electronic notices when other parties or participants file documents in their cases.

For Supreme Court Justices, e-filing allows case documents to be received, processed, and considered more rapidly than ever before, which is vital because the Nevada Supreme Court is one of the busiest Supreme Courts in the nation with more than 2,200 cases filed annually.

DISTRICT COURT E-FILING

The District Court in Washoe County, which was the first court in Nevada to implement e-filing, began accepting e-filings in all case types including criminal during fiscal year 2010. In addition, more than 1,000 individuals have been trained on the e-filing process.

The District Court in Clark County launched its Mandatory Electronic Filing, or e-filing, program for civil and Family Court documents during fiscal year 2010. In its first 2 weeks of operation in February 2010, e-filing let the court avoid the handling of 125,670 pages of paper from civil complaints, Family Court documents, and miscellaneous filings. Without e-filing, those documents would have been hand-stamped, scanned, and then filed in boxes for storage.

About 70 percent of documents are filed remotely online, while the remaining 30 percent of cases are filed in the self-service kiosks at the Court clerk counters. Nearly a quarter of the Eighth Judicial District Court counter filings are pro bono, in-kind service, or no-charge documents.

NEVADA COURT SYSTEM (NCS)

The Nevada Court System (NCS) program was begun several years ago by the AOC to address the technology needs of Nevada's sparsely staffed rural courts. The objective was to provide affordable and efficient technology to courts with insufficient funds to purchase and support such technology. NCS provides a user friendly case management system, staff training, and ongoing technical support from the AOC.

During fiscal year 2010, the Trial Courts Data Management unit completed implementation of systems for the original courts in the NCS program and added two more courts, bringing the total number to 29. The new courts in the program are Fernley and Mesquite Municipal Courts.

Training opportunities were provided via remote technology to NCS participating courts as a cost savings measure. A total of \$46,488 in USJR grant funding was awarded to four trial courts to assist with their local technology projects.

CRIMINAL DATA EXCHANGE

For several years the courts have been exchanging information through the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MC-IJIS), a computer interface project at the AOC that allows different computers to talk with each other.

During fiscal year 2010, volume increased dramatically as a result of partnership support for electronic warrant exchanges. Volume went from nearly 17,000 documents processed per month in fiscal year 2009 to more than 40,000 documents processed per month in fiscal year 2010. The warrant exchange partnership includes the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Clark County, Las Vegas Municipal Court, and Las Vegas Justice Court.

WORK OF THE COURTS

TECHNOLOGY CONT.

E-PAYMENT PROJECT

The North Las Vegas Municipal Court implemented e-payments to reduce the foot traffic in the court lobby and improve customer service. Transactions are updated in real time through the CourtView Application. Since the implementation, the number of customers utilizing the system has increased monthly. More than 1,200 cases are being processed and in excess of \$180,000 is collected each month. The e-payment application made it more convenient for customers to pay fines while permitting the Municipal Court to expand the number of cases resolved without expanding staff requirements.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Carson City Justice Court and the Department of Alternative Sentencing instituted online payments for fines and fees and installed a drop box for the collection of fines and fees at the entrance of the courthouse. In addition, the Carson City Justice/Municipal Court began sending traffic cases for non-payment to a collection agency.

FORECLOSURE MEDIATION CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Less than a year after the Nevada Legislature established the Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program (FMP) in June 2009, their case management system (CMS) was brought online. The Supreme Court's IT Division designed, developed, and deployed a CMS to support the mediation program that was struggling to process the thousands of cases coming through its doors. The CMS has also allowed the FMP to develop precise statistical reports, replacing the hand counting of paper documents that had been required.

NEW SUPREME COURT CMS

The Nevada Supreme Court completed installation of a new case management system (CMS). The new CMS will have a web portal which allows the public to retrieve non-sensitive case information. The new CMS, called "CTrack," is a user friendly, browser-based system designed specifically for appellate courts to capture, track, process, and report on court information.

AWARDS AND HONORS

JUSTICE JAMES W. HARDESTY HONORED

Nevada Supreme Court Justice James W. Hardesty became the first individual to be honored by the Public Interest Law Association (PILA) of the William S. Boyd School of Law in the 11-year history of the association's fund raising event.

Justice Hardesty received a crystal gavel for his efforts to promote public service by attorneys and Nevada businesses. PILA President Nick Portz said Justice Hardesty "embodies the spirit of public interest." PILA's goal is to increase access to legal services throughout Clark County by providing public service grants to Boyd Law School students.

JUSTICE NANCY M. SAITTA CHOSEN FOR FELLOWSHIP

Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta was chosen during fiscal year 2010 as one of 40 emerging state leaders for the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

The fellowship gave Justice Saitta the opportunity to learn about the latest approaches to governance. Justice Saitta joined the other fellows at a seminar in September 2009 in Lexington, Ky., that focused on trends analysis,

policy development, media and constituent relations, and leadership and institutional changes. Justice Saitta is chair of the Nevada Supreme Court's Judicial Public Information Committee.

FORMER JUDGES JACK LEHMAN AND PETER BREEN RECEIVE LEGACY OF JUSTICE AWARD

The Nevada Supreme Court Legacy of Justice Award for 2010 was presented to two former District Court judges for their pioneering work in establishing Nevada's first two Drug Courts.

Former Eighth Judicial District Judge Jack Lehman started the nation's fifth Drug Court in Clark County in 1992 and former Second Judicial District Judge Peter Breen established Washoe County's first Drug Court a short time later. Because of their leadership, Nevada currently has 42 Specialty Courts, including Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, DUI Courts, Homeless Courts, and Veterans Courts.

The Legacy of Justice Award is presented annually to the person or persons within the judicial system whose contributions, innovations, and achievements have resulted in significant improvements in the justice system and benefitted the citizens of Nevada.

WORK OF THE COURTS

AWARDS AND HONORS CONT.

NANCY OESTERLE AND ROBEY WILLIS SHARE FIRST EVER LIFETIME JURIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM NJLJ

The Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) presented the first ever Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award to Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Nancy Oesterle and Carson City Justice of the Peace Robey Willis.

Both judges have long histories as active members of NJLJ. Judge Oesterle served on numerous committees and is a past president of the association. She was also named Judge of the Year in 1994. For more than 11 years, she chaired the association's education committee. Judge Willis served twice as president of the association during his 27 years on the bench and has chaired the NJLJ's Legislative Committee for years.

Both judges are in their last terms in office. Judge Oesterle will leave after 20 years when her term expires at the end of 2010. Judge Willis has announced that he will resign his post in March 2011.

JUDGE OESTERLE RECEIVES LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Judge Nancy Oesterle was the 2010 recipient of the Clark County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award. The award is presented in conjunction with Law Day to recognize outstanding services by individuals to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under law. In 1990, she was president of the Clark County Bar Association. She also was active with the bar's *Communique* magazine for years.

WELLS JP PAT CALTON NAMED JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Judge Pat Calton, Justice of the Peace for Wells Township and Municipal Court Judge for the City of Wells, was honored as "Judge of the Year" by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ), the association of the state's justices of the peace and municipal judges.

Judge Calton has served many years on the NJLJ board and currently is treasurer. She has taught several classes for new judges at NJLJ seminars, and has been an active member of the Education Committee. Judge Calton also serves on the State Judicial Council for her district and is one of only two limited jurisdiction judges on the Commission on Judicial Discipline.

CLARK COUNTY MODEL COURT WINS ZAMBY AWARD

The Clark County Model Court, which streamlines the handling of child abuse and neglect cases at the Eighth Judicial District Family Court, has been recognized with the Zamby Award from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Clark County's Model Court won the award over 36 other model courts for implementing a case management system that assigns one judge to hear one family's case from beginning to end.

Under the prior system, a court master would hear some matters and the assigned Family Court judges would hear other matters.

By setting the calendars geographically, and before the same judge for all hearings, there is greater familiarity for the families and greater predictability in the process. Judges get to know the families and their individual needs for quicker permanency decisions. Waiting times for families and attorneys has been drastically reduced.

DISTRICT JUDGE DEBORAH SCHUMACHER APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Senator Harry Reid appointed Judge Schumacher to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice (CCJJ). The CCJJ manages federal programs tasked with assisting the matters of juvenile delinquency and missing or exploited children. The CCJJ also assists Congress by recommending how the federal government direct its services for children caught up in the juvenile justice system. Judge Schumacher's appointment is a 3-year term.

CARSON CITY JUDGE HONORED FOR SATELLITE COURT

Judge John Tatro was recognized by the Carson City Health and Human Services Department for conducting a satellite court at the Annual Homeless Connect in Carson City held on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Judge John Tatro held court to assist homeless persons with their court matters.

WORK OF THE COURTS

TRIAL COURT ACHIEVEMENTS

CLARK AND WASHOE COUNTIES ADOPTION DAY

During National Adoption Day ceremonies in Nevada, the dreams of more than 100 children came true when they were adopted in Clark and Washoe Counties.

The Clark County Adoption Day event, which joined 78 children with local families, was a collaboration of agencies that included Clark County Department of Family Services, the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) and CASA Foundation, Family Mediation, The Adoption Exchange, and Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

In Washoe County on Adoption Day, 23 children became part of "forever families" when their adoptions were finalized. The Second Judicial District Court conducts quarterly Adoption Day events each year. In this fiscal year, 56 families have adopted 79 children. These events are held at the District Court in collaboration with Washoe County Department of Social Services. Gift bags are provided to the families, including a complimentary VHS copy of the adoption hearing, from donations made by other community partners, such as the CASA Foundation and Sierra Association of Foster Families.

National Adoption Day traditionally is celebrated every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

"National Adoption Day is a very bright and happy time," said Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta. "Family Court judges usually deal with families breaking up as marriages end and battles ensue over child custody, property, money, and belongings."

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEDIA GUIDE

Family Court Judge Chuck Weller, the Nevada Press Association, the Nevada Broadcasters Association, the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, Clark County's Safe Nest and Washoe County's Committee to Aid Abused Women produced the release of a media guide for reporting on domestic violence stories. The guide, *Covering Domestic Violence: A Guide for Informed Media Reporting in Nevada*, was released in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which was recognized in October 2009.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT FAMILY PEACE CENTER

In the Washoe County District Court, divorce mediation, CASA, and the Family Peace Center operations were consolidated. The Family Peace center was relocated to the main courthouse where supervised visitations and

custody exchanges can now take place in a more secure environment. As a result of these changes, the costs of providing these services were reduced.

WASHOE AND NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDE CLINICS

The Second Judicial District Court created space in their courthouse for the Washoe and Nevada Legal Services to provide clinics to *pro per* litigants on a weekly basis. Referrals to these clinics are made through the Court's self-help center and the Washoe County Law Library.

FAMILY COURT DOUBLES CHILD SUPPORT CAPACITY

The capacity to hear Child Support cases at the Clark County Family Court will double because of a \$981,473 grant for a 3-year pilot project. The project will add a second courtroom and calendar with a goal of improving Nevada's ranking in terms of paternity establishment, enforcement, and collections. The grant will allow the court to operate two courtrooms full-time, 5 days per week. This funding includes support staff as well as *pro-tem* hearing masters to serve when the full-time Hearing Masters cannot be on the bench.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

Another school was added to the nine already involved in the Truancy Diversion Project (TDP) that was implemented 9 years ago in Clark County. The program, which focuses on middle and high school students, consists of volunteer judges and family advocates who assist the students and their families to overcome the barriers preventing them from attending school. TDP requires that the students attend tutoring and use an agenda to help them get organized. Each student can participate in a support group run by a mental health professional. Tutoring and the support groups are held on the school campuses at the end of the school day.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S PROJECT SOAR

Project SOAR (Seeking Opportunities Accepting Responsibilities) has been revived in Clark County. Project SOAR is a challenging day camp built around a military structure for youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Project SOAR is a cooperative venture between the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Nevada National Guard, and the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services. Three camps were conducted during fiscal year 2010. More information on the program can be found at www.clarkcountycourts.us/SOAR.

WORK OF THE COURTS

SPECIALTY COURTS

ADULT DRUG COURT

An \$886,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration was awarded to expand residential treatment options for participants of the Clark County Adult Drug Court. As part of the grant, the court will partner with the Salvation Army and WestCare Nevada to place Drug Court participants into residential or day treatment services.

FELONY DUI COURT

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs has funded a second Court Coordinator for the Felony DUI Court in the Eighth Judicial District. A second Court Coordinator will allow expansion of the program in Clark County and permit increased opportunities for supervision of participants. The DUI program involves 3 years of intensive supervision, including a period of house arrest, group and individual treatment sessions, participation in recovery support groups, and use of an auto interlock device. The program may also include an in-home breathalyzer or alcohol monitoring anklet for those who have difficulty maintaining abstinence. Offenders pay for the costs of treatment, program participation, interlock, and house arrest.

VETERANS COURT

Veterans specialty courts in Washoe and Clark Counties, opened their doors in fiscal year 2010 with the passage of AB187. The veterans courts offer those who have served our country, but find themselves in the criminal justice system, a unique and structured system that provides opportunities for veterans to overcome their addictions through completion of treatment programs. Participants who complete the program successfully may qualify for their records to be sealed. Many state and federal veteran assistant programs have been enlisted to assist in these veteran specialty courts.

FIRST MOTHER GRADUATES

Clark County's Dependency Mothers' Drug Court, a federally funded model court to assist women who have child custody issues because of addiction to methamphetamine or other substances, celebrated its first graduate during fiscal year 2010.

The residential treatment program is unique because mothers and their children live together during the in-patient treatment program. The Dependency Mothers' Drug Court provides a positive alternative to incarceration, strengthens families, breaks the cycle of drug use, and enhances family reunification efforts.

GRANTS PROVIDE STAFF

The First Judicial District, Carson City Justice/Municipal Courts, and Department of Alternative Sentencing received various grants that enhanced programs. A grant from the Office and Traffic Safety was awarded to hire a case manager for the Third Time DUI Court.

A 3-year federal grant was also received to hire a bilingual officer to monitor and supervise DUI offenders, provide services for indigent treatment, and expand drug testing.

An onsite drug analysis lab was created through grant funds to perform urine analysis locally instead of contracting with outside companies, expediting court cases as well as reducing costs.

NEVADA BEGAN ONE OF THE NATION'S FIRST:

- Juvenile Drug Court (Clark County)
- Family Drug Court (Washoe County)
- Early Release Re-Entry Drug Courts (Clark and Washoe Counties)
- Child Support Drug Court (Clark County)
- Multi-County Rural Drug Court (Carson City and Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties)

SENIOR JUDGE PROGRAM

SENIOR JUDGES ARE COST EFFECTIVE

The Nevada Senior Judge Program continued to be a cost effective way to keep the wheels of justice rolling as courts throughout the state struggle in these hard economic times.

Senior Judges generally are called on when elected judges are occupied with lengthy trials or other matters, or are unavailable to sit because of illness, training, or vacation. During fiscal year 2010, Senior Judges also presided over drug and mental health courts, short trials, and settlement conferences.

The Senior Judge Program proved its value during the year when those judges were assigned to preside over marathon settlement sessions involving lingering medical malpractice cases.

Senior Judges were also effective in the innovative Family Court settlement program in Clark County, serving as mediators or presiding over short trials. This allowed families to complete divorces and settle child custody disputes much more quickly than through prolonged litigation. For more detailed information about the Senior Judge Program, please see page 33.





THE NEVADA JUDICIARY CASELOAD STATISTICS REPORT



Uniform System for Judicial Records

The Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) reporting requirements were established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order ADKT 295. The USJR requires trial courts to submit information defined in the Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary (Dictionary) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in the Dictionary is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile.

Caseloads and dispositions for each case category have been defined and consistently categorized therein. In fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010), two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types were cases filed (cases initiated with the court) and cases disposed (cases adjudicated or closed). Courts report these data counts by case type.

As technology and resources allow, future phases of USJR will be defined and data will be collected.

This annual report provides caseload inventory (filing) and disposition statistics for the Supreme Court and all 77 trial courts in the state: 17 District Courts, 43 Justice Courts, and 17 Municipal Courts. Where court information varies from the Dictionary or is incomplete, explanatory footnotes are provided.

This year, the detailed appendix tables are excluded from the printed version of the report in an effort to reduce costs. The appendix tables are available on the Supreme Court of Nevada website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) in the documents section.

In fiscal year 2010, the Supreme Court caseload continued to increase with more than 2,200 cases filed during the fiscal year, while the Court disposed of more than 2,400 cases during the same period.

Historically, Nevada has ranked among the highest caseloads in the country. In fiscal year 2010, the statewide total non-traffic caseload decreased overall, with the amount of change varying among the three jurisdictional levels as seen in Table 1. While total filings decreased, the Nevada Judiciary saw increases in three of the four case categories. Criminal filings increased to 164,864, family filings increased to 67,141, and juvenile increased to 13,847. Civil saw a large decrease in filings to 160,748. The total filings in each case category, for the fiscal year 2010 can be seen in Figure 1.

AB65, which took effect on July 1, 2009, approved an increase in the filing fees for civil case types. In fiscal year 2010, there was a decrease in the filing of civil case types in both District and

Justice Courts. A possible factor in the decrease in civil filings may have been the economic struggles of businesses and their ability to afford litigation.

When courts have been contacted regarding the decreases in traffic cases (2 percent), they have indicated the decrease is due in part to the difficult economic situation on local governments and their ability to fill vacant law enforcement positions.

For fiscal year 2010, the District Courts' total non-traffic caseload increased in three case categories and decreased in one. The family caseload saw the largest increase at about 5 percent. Juvenile and criminal case filings both increased less than 1 percent, while civil case filings decreased about 10 percent. The overall statewide District Court non-traffic caseload decreased 539 cases or less than 1 percent.

The Justice Court caseload increased in criminal (7 percent) and decreased in civil (13 percent) for fiscal year 2010. Overall, this represents a statewide decrease of more than 5 percent in Justice Court non-traffic cases.

For fiscal year 2010, the Municipal Court criminal non-traffic caseload also showed a decrease of about 3 percent. This fiscal year no civil cases were filed.



(6-Delmar, NV)

Figure 1. Statewide Non-Traffic Caseloads for Fiscal Year 2010.

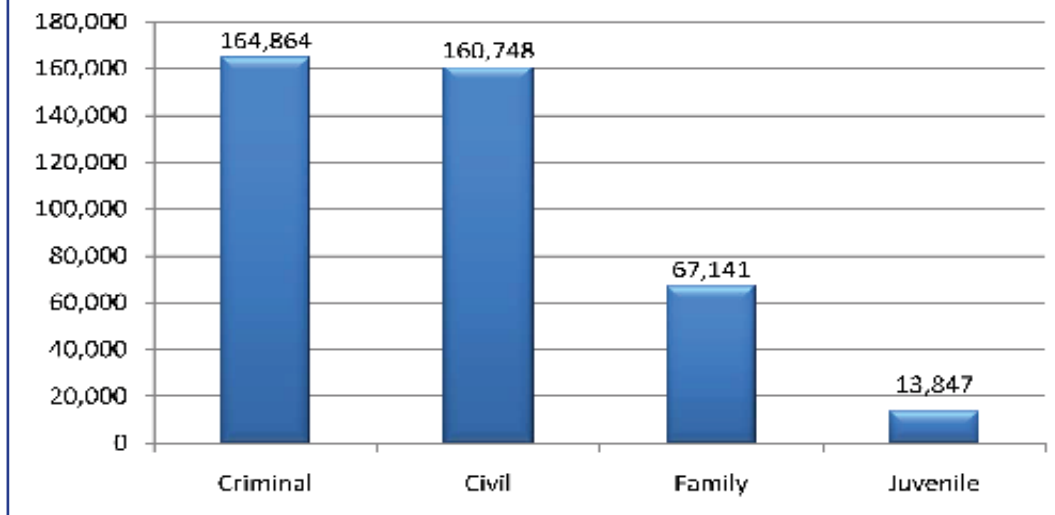


Table 1. Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload, Fiscal Years 2006-10.

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^a	Civil ^b	Family ^b	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking Cases ^{c,d}	Traffic and Parking Charges ^{c,d}
District	2010 ^b	13,693	36,960	67,141	13,847	131,641	5,465	7,163
	2009	13,607 ^r	41,011	63,791	13,771	132,180 ^r	5,285	8,223 ^r
	2008	14,730 ^r	34,519 ^r	62,448 ^r	14,673 ^r	126,370 ^r	(^c)	9,265 ^r
	2007	15,049	31,434 ^r	61,729	15,862 ^r	124,074 ^r	(^c)	6,536
	2006	14,865	29,093 ^r	59,573	15,093	118,624 ^r	(^c)	6,831 ^r
Justice	2010 ^b	95,652	123,788	NJ	NJ	219,440	373,352	516,383
	2009	89,238 ^r	142,501 ^r	NJ	NJ	231,739 ^r	376,376	543,745 ^r
	2008	86,894	148,473 ^r	NJ	NJ	235,367 ^r	(^c)	559,982 ^r
	2007	82,304 ^r	141,212	NJ	NJ	223,516 ^r	(^c)	530,703 ^r
	2006	80,438	126,111	NJ	NJ	206,549	(^c)	459,649 ^r
Municipal	2010 ^b	55,519	0	NJ	NJ	55,519	236,453	347,175
	2009	57,497 ^r	0	NJ	NJ	57,497 ^r	247,685	368,440
	2008	55,752 ^r	4	NJ	NJ	55,756 ^r	(^c)	349,432 ^r
	2007	58,849	7	NJ	NJ	58,856	(^c)	324,225
	2006	58,266 ^r	7	NJ	NJ	58,273 ^r	(^c)	281,346
TOTAL	2010 ^b	164,864	160,748	67,141	13,847	406,600	615,270	870,721
	2009	160,342 ^r	183,512 ^r	63,791	13,771	421,416 ^r	629,346	920,408 ^r
	2008	157,376 ^r	182,996 ^r	62,448 ^r	14,673 ^r	417,493 ^r	(^c)	918,679 ^r
	2007	156,202 ^r	172,653 ^r	61,729	15,862 ^r	406,446 ^r	(^c)	861,464 ^r
	2006	153,569 ^r	155,211 ^r	59,573	15,093	383,446 ^r	(^c)	747,826 ^r

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

^a Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, non-traffic misdemeanor filings and criminal appeals.

^b Reopened cases are included in totals.

^c Fiscal year 2009 and 2010 traffic and parking filings are reported on the defendant level. Prior years reported these filings on the charge level, accordingly both cases and charges are provided here.

^d Traffic cases and charges include juvenile traffic statistics.

^r Data totals revised from previous annual reports owing to improved data management.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.



(7-Pyramid Lake-Stone Mother)

USJR PROVIDES DETAILED CRIMINAL STATISTICS

On July 1, 2010, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Research and Statistics Unit, implemented an expanded process for capturing and reporting criminal statistics for Nevada courts. This new process is the result of nearly 3 years of work of the subcommittee made up of urban and rural court judges and staff including the AOC. With the assistance and participation of the Nevada Judiciary, we are now able to capture and report more detailed information about the criminal caseloads of the courts in Nevada.

Previous annual reports were only able to provide criminal information based upon general degrees of offense such as felony, gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, and traffic. With the expansion of statistical reporting, specific types of non-traffic cases are reported in detailed categories such as: crimes against persons, domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse and neglect, protection order violations, crimes against property, drugs, weapons, DUI, reckless driving, and public order. Traffic and parking will also continue to be tracked. These detailed statistics can be seen in the appendix tables of this report at www.nevadajudiciary.us.

These detailed statistics continue to fulfill the Supreme Court's efforts for a more open and transparent justice system. The statistics will allow a more complete and open view into the work of the courts. In addition, they will assist the Supreme Court

in working with the Nevada Legislature and other public bodies to identify and address issues within our criminal justice system thereby helping ensure more access to justice.

Supreme Court

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The core constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals from the decisions of the District Courts.

The Supreme Court is the administrative head of the entire legal system. The Justices oversee the courts and issue rules governing everything from the court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors were made in the rendering of lower court decisions. As the court of last resort in Nevada, the Supreme Court hears all filed cases. The Nevada Constitution does not provide for discretionary review of cases in the court of last resort.

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 2,266 filings during the last fiscal year; an increase of 5 percent or 114 filings from the year before. The Justices disposed of 2,419 cases; an increase of nearly 12 percent from the prior year and more than 23 percent from 2 years ago. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals by case type for the Supreme Court. As shown, the criminal appeals provide the majority of the Court's caseload at 47 percent.

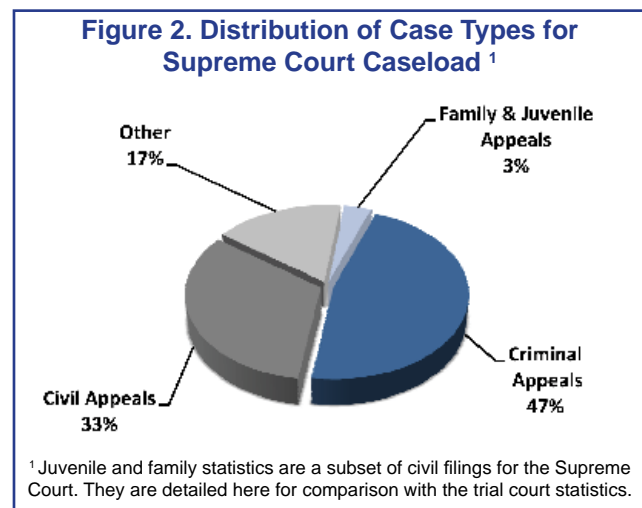


Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2006-10.

	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2010
Cases Filed					
Bar Matters	28	39	38	42	51
Appeals	1,735	1,751	1,842	1,759	1,873
Original Proceedings	305	323	334	327	327
Other	6	7	4	7	1
Reinstated	12	12	20	17	14
Total Cases Filed	2,086	2,132	2,238	2,152	2,266
Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ¹	122	98	90	98	63
By Order	2,007	2,095	1,869	2,069	2,356
Total Cases Disposed	2,129	2,193	1,959	2,167	2,419
Cases Pending	1,464	1,403	1,682	1,667	1,514

¹ Includes cases consolidated and disposed of by a single written opinion.
Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

The breakdown of appeals of District Court cases by Judicial District is provided in Table 3. As can be expected for the largest District Court in the state, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) recorded the most appeals, increasing by 125 cases from last

fiscal year. The second largest District Court in the state, the Second Judicial District (Washoe County) recorded the next highest number of appeals, though decreasing slightly (4 cases) from last fiscal year.

Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2006-10.

Fiscal Year	Judicial Districts										Total ¹
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth		
Civil Appeals Filed ²											
2010	39 5%	117 14%	9 1%	5 1%	12 1%	12 1%	5 1%	611 75%	9 1%	819 100%	
2009	45 6%	115 15%	17 2%	13 2%	8 1%	7 1%	10 1%	549 70%	16 2%	780 100%	
2008	43 5%	126 15%	14 2%	10 1%	15 2%	10 1%	13 2%	577 70%	17 2%	825 100%	
2007	34 4%	125 16%	16 2%	7 1%	14 2%	10 1%	13 2%	535 70%	13 2%	767 100%	
2006	24 3%	120 17%	8 1%	11 2%	9 1%	3 0%	17 2%	509 71%	16 2%	717 100%	
Criminal Appeals Filed											
2010	39 4%	185 18%	21 2%	9 1%	22 2%	22 2%	42 4%	711 67%	3 0%	1,054 100%	
2009	33 3%	191 20%	14 1%	12 1%	16 2%	25 3%	36 4%	648 66%	4 0%	979 100%	
2008	38 4%	249 24%	24 2%	21 2%	19 2%	28 3%	15 1%	618 61%	5 0%	1,017 100%	
2007	24 2%	234 24%	20 2%	20 2%	22 2%	18 2%	19 2%	621 63%	6 1%	984 100%	
2006	21 2%	251 25%	19 2%	20 2%	16 2%	14 1%	25 2%	644 63%	8 1%	1,018 100%	
Total Appeals Filed											
2010	78 4%	302 16%	30 2%	14 1%	34 2%	34 2%	47 3%	1,322 71%	12 1%	1,873 100%	
2009	78 4%	306 17%	31 2%	25 1%	24 1%	32 2%	46 3%	1,197 68%	20 1%	1,759 100%	
2008	81 4%	375 20%	38 2%	31 2%	34 2%	38 2%	28 2%	1,195 65%	22 1%	1,842 100%	
2007	58 3%	359 21%	36 2%	27 2%	36 2%	28 2%	32 2%	1,156 66%	19 1%	1,751 100%	
2006	45 3%	371 21%	27 2%	31 2%	25 1%	17 1%	42 2%	1,153 66%	24 1%	1,735 100%	

¹ Total of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. See Figure 3 for list of counties within districts.

² Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts With and Without Courts of Appeals. All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2008, 2009).

	Nevada	Montana ^a	Maine ^a	Arizona ^{a,b}	New Mexico ^a	Kansas ^a	Utah ^{a,b}
Population rank ^c	35	44	41	14	36	33	34
Court of Appeals							
Justices				22	10	13	7
En banc or panels				Panels	Panels	Both	Panels
Cases filed & granted ^d				3,535 ^f	928 ^f	1,830 ^f	871 ^f
Cases per justice				161	93	141	124
Supreme Court							
Justices	7	7	7	5	5	7	5
En banc or panels	Both	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
Cases filed & granted ^d	2,266	627 ^f	733 ^f	1,023 ^f	601 ^f	1,215 ^f	593 ^f
Cases per justice	324	90	105	205	120	174	119

^a Supreme Court has discretion in case review.

^b Court of Appeals has discretion in case review.

^c Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program: September 2009 website <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

^d Includes mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed and granted, unless otherwise noted.

^f Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed. Number of filings granted for review not available.

Appellate Court Comparisons

Recently, Nevada has studied the addition of a Court of Appeals. Legislation was passed during the 2007 session, and again during the 2009 session, which allowed for voters to determine if a Constitutional Amendment is appropriate in allowing for the Legislature to create a Court of Appeals.

The vote will have taken place prior to the release of this report. A comparison of caseloads and related information from selected appellate courts with some similarities to Nevada are provided in Table 4.



(8-Washoe Lake)

Information about some states with Court of Appeals is also included. Compared with the two other states in Table 4 without a Court of Appeals, Nevada has almost three times the filings per Justice. In addition,

the Nevada Supreme Court has more cases filed than the combined caseloads of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals for New Mexico and Utah. These two state populations rank just above and below that of Nevada.

When comparing court of appeal filings to supreme court filings, generally, the court of appeals

have a much higher number of new case filings. Specifically, Arizona and Kansas both reported more Court of Appeals case filings than Supreme Court case filings. These comparisons suggest that

a new Court of Appeals will provide greater access to justice for the citizens of Nevada and should result in quicker resolution of cases. In addition, courts of appeals provide supreme courts the ability to focus on precedent setting cases.

District Courts

The District Courts are general jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload encompasses all case types (criminal, civil, family, and juvenile) as well as mandates prescribed by the Nevada Constitution and Nevada Revised Statutes. Criminal cases include felony and gross misdemeanor case types, and civil cases for disputes exceeding \$10,000. Family and juvenile cases are defined by the parties involved in the action or proceedings.

Nevada's 9 Judicial Districts encompass its 17 counties, each of which maintains a District Court and provides court staff. The 9 Judicial Districts are served by 72 District Court Judges who are elected and serve within the Judicial District in which they reside; however, they have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state. The sparse population of rural Nevada has necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties. Judges in these rural Judicial Districts must travel within the multiple counties on a regular basis to hear cases.

Statistical Summary

The District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. The detailed information for fiscal year 2010 is available in the appendix located on the Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) under the Administrative Office of the Court documents area. Summary disposition information is included in Table 6.

The distribution of case types within the District Courts is shown in Figure 3. Family cases make up the largest percentage of the court caseload at 51 percent, an increase of 2 percent over last fiscal year. Civil cases make up 28 percent while criminal and



(9-Humboldt River)

juvenile (non-traffic) cases follow with 10 and 11 percent, respectively.

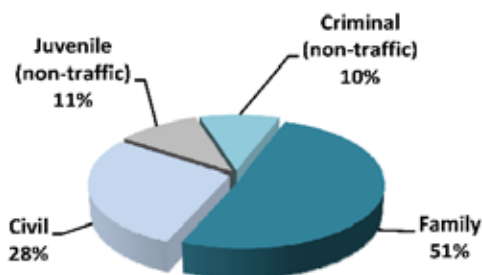
Statewide, the District Court criminal non-traffic filings for fiscal year 2010 increased only 86 cases (less than 1 percent) from the previous year (see Table 5). Clark County District Court criminal filings decreased 38 cases (less than 1 percent). Still, many of the District Courts, in less populous areas, reported increases in criminal caseloads including Carson City, Lyon, Elko, Esmeralda, Mineral, Humboldt, Pershing, Eureka, White Pine, and Douglas Counties. Douglas and Elko Counties had two of the largest percentage increases in criminal caseload with 64 percent (from 160 to 263 cases) and 35 percent (from 326 to 441), respectively. Detailed statistics by court and case type can be viewed on the Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us).

Nevada has historically ranked among the highest caseloads in the country. However, for the first time since 2006, District Court civil case filings decreased. The decrease for fiscal year 2010 was 10 percent statewide from fiscal year 2009. Still, when compared to 2008, filings showed a modest increase (7 percent).

In Washoe County, the second most populous county, civil filings increased about 2 percent from fiscal year 2009; while Clark County, the most populous, decreased nearly 13 percent. Many less populous areas saw percentage increases in filings including Mineral County with 89 percent (from 28 to 53 cases) and Churchill County with 37 percent (from 150 to 206 cases).

Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. Statewide, the total family caseload continued a 10-year history of increase. This fiscal year's increase was 5 percent from last fiscal year. Caseloads in over half of all District Courts increased. The two major urban District Courts, Clark and Washoe Counties, both saw modest increases of 6 and 3 percent, respectively. Several rural District

Figure 3. Distribution of Case Types For Statewide District Court Caseload, Fiscal Year 2010



Courts experienced double-digit percentage increases over the previous year. District Courts with large percentage increases included Eureka County, 46 percent (from 13 to 19 cases); Mineral County, nearly 22 percent (from 69 to 84 cases); and Churchill County, with 16 percent (556 to 644 cases).

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2010 increased 76 cases (less than 1 percent). Clark County saw more than a 2 percent increase while Washoe County saw a decrease of more than 9 percent. District Courts with large percentage increases included Lander County, 291 percent (from 12 to 47 cases); and Lincoln County, with 125 percent (from 12 to 27 cases). In Pershing County, while an increase in filings was reported, the increase was due to the reporting of Juvenile cases heard by their Juvenile Hearing Master, which previously went unreported by the court.

Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. This is the tenth year for the

collecting and reporting of disposition information, which is a complex process for the courts. Some courts were unable to provide accurate and complete information. In addition, some case management systems have become obsolete. For example, the Clark County case management system was recently replaced. Their new case management system was implemented for most family court and civil cases in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, criminals cases were included at the end of fiscal year 2010, which should allow a more accurate and complete count of cases in Clark County for the next fiscal year report.

The overall change in District Court dispositions was a decrease of 5 percent. Specifically, the criminal case dispositions saw a decrease of nearly 4 percent. The total decrease in family case dispositions was 8 percent, civil case dispositions decreased 4 percent, and juvenile case dispositions increased more than 2 percent.

Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2009-10. (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}		Civil Cases Filed ^b		Family Cases Filed ^b		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Filed		Total Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}	
	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009
	First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	260	252	811	775	998	952	359	303	2,428	2,282
Storey County District Court	10	25	39	37	22	37	14	11	85	110
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,508	2,679	4,835	4,749	11,606	11,248	1,888	2,084	20,837	20,760
Third Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	116	125	206	150	644	556	281	353	1,247	1,184
Lyon County District Court	252	209	356	376	640	604	441	452	1,689	1,641
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	441	326	857	849	1,009	987	413	423	2,720	2,585
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	2	0	15	11	4	7	0	0	21	18
Mineral County District Court	81	63	53	28	84	69	56	76	274	236
Nye County District Court	362	373	440	485	1,693	1,602	497	409	2,992	2,869
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	118	88	106	115	315	356	282	301	821	860
Lander County District Court	9	32	22	28	46	44	47	12	124	116
Pershing County District Court	78	63 ^r	91	97	91	108	136	26	396	294 ^r
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	17	13	14	23	19	13	18	12	68	61
Lincoln County District Court	46	50	23	33	31	29	27	12	127	124
White Pine County District Court	92	73	182	145	107	134	96	189	477	541
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	9,038 ^c	9,076 ^c	28,460	32,597	49,035	46,280	9,157	8,946	95,690	96,899
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	263	160	450	513	797	765	135	162	1,645	1,600
Total	13,693	13,607^r	36,960	41,011	67,141	63,791	13,847	13,771	131,641	132,180^r

^a Includes felony, gross misdemeanor case, as well as criminal appeals from lower jurisdiction courts.

^b Includes reopened cases.

^c Cases may include more than one defendant.

^r Revised from previous publications.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-10. (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009
	First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	205	261	409	397	714	705	161	361	1,489	1,724
Storey County District Court	1	10	27	18	19	28	10	8	57	64
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,293	2,504	2,839	2,481	6,533	6,967	4,653	5,120	16,318	17,072
Third Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	94	110	92	101	524	433	324	517	1,034	1,161
Lyon County District Court	214	207	256	171	446	220	397	467	1,313	1,065
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	342	286	214	206	1,105 ^a	1,180 ^a	357	296	2,018	1,968
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	2	2	7	0	2	2	0	0	11	4
Mineral County District Court	55	56	31	15	136	114	51	47	273	232
Nye County District Court	356	323	238	287	1,611	1,745	546	438	2,751	2,793
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	110	137	40	41	152	143	256	200	558	521
Lander County District Court	31	12	18	14	38	47	84	93	171	166
Pershing County District Court	58	56	14	8	95	319	44	53	211	436
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	21	16	16	9	15	9	24	11	76	45
Lincoln County District Court	58	22	8	17	22	19	44	15	132	73 ^r
White Pine County District Court	77	82	132	135	164	167	176	131	549	515
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	12,141	12,581	21,781	23,272	47,205	51,819	11,351 ^b	10,274 ^b	92,478 ^b	97,946 ^b
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	109	132	341	419	739	678	104	123	1,293	1,352
Total	16,167	16,797^r	26,463	27,591^r	59,520	64,595	18,582	18,154	120,732	127,137^r

^a Includes the disposition of support hearings.

^b Dispositions include a high number of administrative closures related to efforts with the new case management system.

^r Revised from previous publication.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

Cases Per Judicial Position

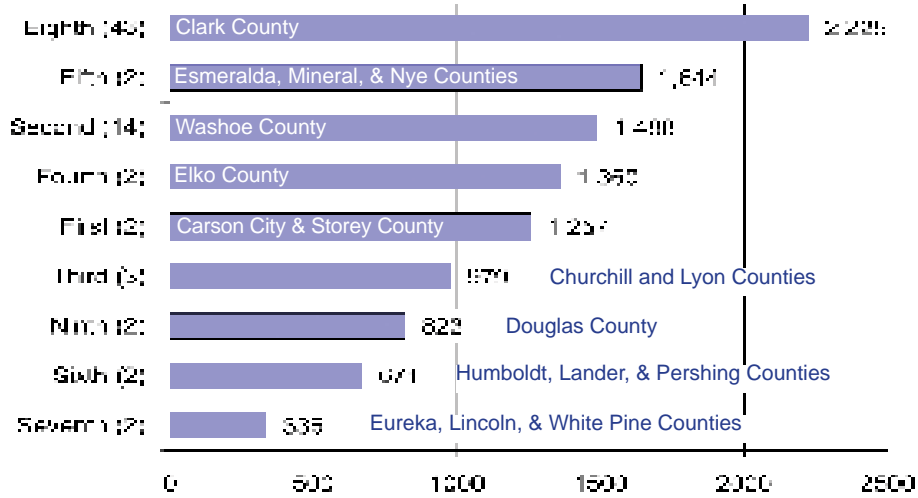
The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2010 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases from those counties are averaged between the Judges. To make the comparisons more consistent between court types, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals before calculating the amount of cases filed per

judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement. In District Court, juvenile traffic cases are handled predominately by Juvenile Masters and occasionally by District Court Judges.

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,828, a decrease of 116 cases per Judge over last fiscal year (1,944), which, in part, was the result of additional judicial positions, and in part, the reduction of civil filings.

As has been the case for the last several years, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of non-traffic cases per judicial position at 2,225, a decrease from last year (2,422) following the addition of six full-time Judges in January 2009. The Fifth Judicial District (Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye Counties) follows with 1,644 cases per judicial position, an increase from the

**Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position
By Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2010**
(Number of Judicial Positions in parentheses)



previous fiscal year (1,562). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was next with 1,488 cases per judicial position, a decrease over last fiscal year (1,597). This decrease is attributed in part with the addition of two full-time Judges starting in January 2009.

It is important to note that District Court Judges with smaller caseloads may assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county Judicial Districts, Judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A 2005 study¹ indicates these judges average at least 1 day a week on the road, which reduces their availability to hear cases.

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts by Special Masters and Senior Justices and Judges who help dispose of cases. These Special Master positions are termed quasi-judicial because they have limited authority and are accountable to an elected Judge. Individuals in these positions are appointed by courts to help with the adjudication process.

The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided by Special Masters during the year. A summary is provided in Table 7.

¹ Sweet, R.L., and Dobbins, R., 2005, *Miles Driven by Rural District Court Judges in Nevada, Fiscal Years 2000-04*: Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts, Planning & Analysis Division Research Review, 4 p.

Table 7. Estimated Full-Time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2010.

Court & County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
First Judicial District Carson City Storey	1.00
Second Judicial District Washoe	8.00
Third Judicial District Churchill Lyon	0.58
Fourth Judicial District Elko	2.00
Fifth Judicial District Esmeralda Mineral Nye	1.50
Sixth Judicial District Humboldt Lander Pershing	0.46
Seventh Judicial District Eureka Lincoln White Pine	0.10
Eighth Judicial District Clark	13.02
Ninth Judicial District Douglas	0.50
Total	27.16

Statewide, the quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2010 was equivalent to 27 full-time judicial officers. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. Additionally, in a few Judicial Districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic cases. These quasi-judicial assistance positions are not included in Figure 4.

Senior Justice and Judge Program

Alternative methods utilized to provide intermittent judicial assistance to courts include the Senior Justices and Judges Program, as well as temporary assignment of District Court Judges. Supreme Court Rule 10 governs the Senior Justices and Judges Program. In brief, any former Supreme

Court Justice or District Court Judge who qualifies for retirement and who was not removed, retired-for-cause, or defeated for retention in an election for a particular level of court may apply to become a Senior Justice or Judge. The Senior Justices and Judges are eligible for temporary assignment by the Supreme Court to any State trial court at the level of their previous judicial service with a minimum of 2 years of service in that office.

“The Senior Judge Program has been a great asset to the citizens of the State of Nevada. The program has been well received by members of the State Legislature as well as the public at large,” said Justice Michael Cherry, who oversees the Senior Judge Program. “By using the resources of returned jurists, our citizens have been assured that justice will not be delayed or denied and the public’s need will be served at all times.”

Table 8. Senior Justices and Judges Assignments for Fiscal Year 2010.

Judicial District (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of Assignments	Number of Hours
First JD (Carson City & Storey Co.)	Case Assignment	11	166.00
	Durational	7	184.00
Total for First JD		18	350.00
Second JD (Washoe Co.)	Case Assignment	5	86.50
	Durational	8	146.50
	Durational – Family Court	22	395.70
	Settlement Conference	3	25.00
	Short/Trial Settlement – Family	10	292.70
	Specialty Court – Urban	16	1,528.00
Total for Second JD		64	2,474.40
Third JD (Churchill Co. & Lyon Co.)	Case Assignment	11	246.69
	Durational	4	118.63
Total for Third JD		15	365.32
Fourth JD (Elko Co.)	Case Assignment	20	436.25
	Settlement Conference	1	5.00
	Durational	2	17.65
Total for Fourth JD		23	458.90
Fifth JD (Esmeralda Co., Nye Co., & Mineral Co.)	Case Assignment	14	352.90
	Settlement Conference	3	66.20
Total for Fifth JD		17	419.10
Sixth JD (Humboldt Co., Lander Co., & Pershing Co.)	Case Assignment	3	21.20
	Settlement Conference	1	5.00
Total for Sixth JD		4	26.20
Seventh JD (Eureka Co., Lincoln Co., White Pine Co.)	Case Assignment	14	132.90
	Durational	1	18.00
Total for Seventh JD		15	150.90
Eighth JD (Clark Co.)	Case Assignment	11	125.40
	Durational	75	1,541.90
	Durational – Family	104	2,034.20
	Med. Mal. Sett. Conf. Marathon	15	683.00
	Settlement Conference	93	580.80
	Short Trial/Settlements – Family	33	1,342.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	2	336.00
Total for Eighth JD		333	6,643.30
Ninth JD (Douglas Co.)	Case Assignment	10	316.00
	Durational	6	147.00
Total for Ninth JD		16	463.00
Western Region (First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth JDs)	Specialty Court Rural	16	496.00
Total for Other		16	496.00
Grand Total		521	11,847.12



(10-Walker Lake)

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2010 is provided in Table 8. The table includes the types of assignments requested in each district as well as the number of assignments and number of hours for each assignment. Senior Justice or Judge assignments are made through a judicial assistance memorandum of assignment, which is a document that assigns a specific Senior Justice or Judge to a specific court or case. Each judicial assistance memorandum is counted as one assignment. Judicial assistance memoranda may also provide for multiple days or cases, depending on the assistance requested. When a judicial vacancy occurs, such as when a Judge is temporarily absent (due to catastrophic illness or attendance at mandatory judicial education classes), or otherwise recused or disqualified, a Senior Justice or Judge may be assigned for a period of time to hear all cases previously calendared, or for an individual case. A Senior Justice or Judge may continue to hear motions on a case assigned in a previous fiscal year. Without this assistance, hearings would have to be vacated or reassigned, creating burdensome delays and frustration for litigants.

The Senior Justices and Judges also hear civil settlement conferences on a regular basis. Additionally, Senior Justices and Judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every 2 weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Family Court and once a month in the Second Judicial District Family Court.

The Senior Justices and Judges conduct specialty court programs in the District Courts. In the Second, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts, Senior Justices and Judges conduct the drug and mental health courts and in the Eighth Judicial District they conduct the mental health court. These programs have great success in providing alternatives to jail time for certain offenders and in assisting these offenders to become productive members of society.

During fiscal year 2010, there were 21 Senior Justices or Judges actively serving the District Courts. Their combined efforts provided assistance equivalent to 7 full-time judges for the State.

Business Courts

The Business Court dockets for Nevada were created during fiscal year 2001 in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. They were created and are managed through the court rules for these two judicial districts. Recently, the Supreme Court requested the Business Courts to provide data on their efforts during the fiscal year. That information is contained in Table 9.

New filings dropped significantly from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2010. This may be attributed to an increase in filing fees as well as the impact the sluggish economy is having on businesses, and corresponds with the drop in civil filings.

The goal of the Business Court is to identify disputes among business entities that will benefit from enhanced case management.

As a regular part of the business court program, settlement conferences are regularly conducted by the Business Court judges and have proven to be an effective tool for resolution of business cases.

The additional focus on these cases is expected to help avoid business interruption during the time of litigation, provide an opportunity for innovative case resolution, and realize consistent decisions that will enhance business planning.

Table 9. Summary of Business Court Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

Court	New Case Filings		Cases Transferred In		Case Dispositions		Pending Cases at Year End		Average Time to Disposition (Mo.)	
	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	16	102	22	100	44	45	88	94	14	11
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	247	614	NR	149	499	468	628	838	18	15
NR	Not reported.									

Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs began on July 1, 1992, after passage of Senate Bill 366 by the 1991 Legislature. The legislation required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

Initially, the ADR Programs focused on certain civil cases with probable award value of less than \$25,000. A later statutory revision increased the amount to \$40,000, and during the 2005 Legislative session the maximum amount was increased to \$50,000 per plaintiff for mandatory programs. The Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the initial amount.

During fiscal year 2010, in two of the four participating Judicial Districts more cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages. The First (Carson City/Storey County) and Second Judicial District (Washoe) each had new cases less than the 10-year average. The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for the most recent 10 years for each district program are provided in Table 10.

This fiscal year, the program showed its success when all courts reported fiscal year 2010 settlement rates that were higher than their long-term program averages. This means cases are resolved more quickly and at a reduced cost for the litigants. While the settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another for each District Court and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of

arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff, the 10-year average provides a good comparison for how these programs perform over time. The settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed after entering the arbitration program, compared with those cases requesting trials *de novo* (actual bench or jury trials).

One specific type of alternative dispute resolution is the Short Trial Program as defined in the Nevada Court Rules. A Short Trial follows modified rules, which include having only four jurors and limiting each party (plaintiffs and defendants) to 3 hours for presentation of their case. The verdict must be agreed upon by three of the four jurors.

This fiscal year the Second Judicial District Court reported that 57 new cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program. Throughout the fiscal year, 52 cases were dismissed or settled. In addition, 41 cases this fiscal year were scheduled for a short trial.

The Eighth Judicial District Court reported 582 new cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program and that 394 cases were dismissed or settled. In addition, the court reported 231 cases were scheduled for short trial this fiscal year.

Each of these District Courts collect fees (\$5 per civil case filing, except Clark County which collects \$15 per case filing) for the administration of their arbitration programs, including staff and technology expenses. All four District Courts have expenses that exceed the amount collected in filing fees. However, the courts continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives to traditional trials. The programs are well-received by litigants, the public, and members of the bar since cases are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense.

Table 10. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2010.

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10 years)
Civil Caseload Cases Entered *	850	721	4,835	4,142	28,460	23,648	450	412
Cases Removed	227	250	476	500	3,908	3,787	191	161
Cases Settled Or Dismissed	47	49	593	176	352	366	29	33
Settlement Rate	140	154	346	344	3,618	2,093	45	30
Trials <i>De Novo</i> Requested	96%	94%	84%	81%	84%	73%	96%	88%
Trials <i>De Novo</i> Request Rate	6	9	67	83	665	783	2	4
	4%	6%	16%	19%	16%	27%	4%	12%

* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request to be removed.

Justice Courts

The Justice Courts are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor non-traffic cases as well as general civil cases (amounts up to \$10,000), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary protective orders (domestic violence or stalking and harassment). They also hear traffic matters which are discussed in detail in a later section.

The Justices of the Peace are elected and serve within the townships in which they reside. In fiscal year 2010, the 43 Justice Courts were served by 65 Justices of the Peace. They may hear cases in other townships within their county or as visiting Justices of the Peace in neighboring counties under special circumstances. Those Judges who retire or resign and have been commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the State.

Statistical Summary

The Justice Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 11. Detailed information for fiscal year 2010 is provided in the appendix located on the Nevada Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) under the Administrative Office of the Court documents area. Summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is included in Table 11.

Statewide, the number of Justice Court non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed during fiscal year 2010 decreased 5 percent (12,299 cases) from fiscal year 2009.

Justice Court criminal case filings statewide increased 7 percent. Las Vegas Justice Court continued to have the highest criminal caseload with 64 percent of the Justice Court statewide total. Reno Justice Court was the next highest with 7 percent.

In Lyon County, Walker River Justice Court experienced a large increase (192 percent) in filings while Canal Justice Court decreased 32 percent both largely due to redistricting of the Silver Springs area. Lyon County as a whole experienced more than a 9 percent increase in criminal filings, with Dayton Justice Court increasing more than 4 percent.

Justice Court civil filings for fiscal year 2010 decreased 13 percent statewide over last year. Legislative changes to the requirements for filing credit card collection actions may be a cause of some of the decrease in civil filings.

Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (60 percent). Reno Justice Court was the next highest (11 percent).

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 12. Overall, total non-traffic dispositions decreased 16 percent from last year. Criminal case dispositions increased 4 percent and civil case dispositions decreased 21 percent. In fiscal year 2009, Las Vegas Justice Court had a large increase in administrative review and closure of outstanding civil cases. When comparing this fiscal year with 2008, civil cases disposed statewide has risen by 22 percent.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period.

Cases Per Judicial Position

The comparison of the Justice Court non-traffic cases per judicial position information requires some considerations unique to its jurisdiction. For instance, many of the Justices of the Peace have part-time assignments. Cases in Justice Courts (limited jurisdictions) tend to be less complex than cases in District Courts (general jurisdictions), thus a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. Traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because charges may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement.

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 or more non-traffic cases per judicial position are shown in the graphic; the remaining courts are listed in the footnote below Figure 5. The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. In Figure 5, eight courts have more than 2,000 non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas had the most at 11,274, a decrease from the previous year (14,967) attributed to the decrease in civil filings and judicial positions added January 2009. Next was Sparks Justice Court with 4,392 cases filed per

Table 11. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2009-10.
(See Table 14 for traffic data.)

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed ^a		Total Non-traffic Caseload	
	FY10 ^a	FY09	FY10	FY09	FY10	FY09
First Judicial District						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,414	2,208 ^r	5,112	5,068	7,526	7,276 ^r
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	97	131	55	70	152	201
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	377	840	251	232	628	1,072
Reno Justice Court	7,062	7,895	13,722	16,037	20,784	23,932
Sparks Justice Court	2,854	2,852	5,929	6,056	8,783	8,908
Wadsworth Justice Court	71	77	38	31	109	108
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	729	659 ^r	1,254	1,304	1,983	1,963 ^r
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	471	693	1,204	1,371	1,675	2,064
Dayton Justice Court	563	541 ^r	781	830	1,344	1,371 ^r
Walker River Justice Court	506	173 ^r	681	462	1,187	635 ^r
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	76	252	140	144	216	396
East Line Justice Court	106	129	126	125	232	254
Elko Justice Court	1,695	1,364	1,536	1,626	3,231	2,990
Jackpot Justice Court	197 ^b	87 ^r	28	28	225 ^b	115 ^r
Wells Justice Court	178	124	74	85	252	209
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	12	21	8	13	20	34
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	559	544	266	224	825	768
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	159	133	29	36	188	169
Pahrump Justice Court	1,783	1,317 ^r	1,210	1,512 ^r	2,993	2,829 ^r
Tonopah Justice Court	307	266	108	109	415	375
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	997	976	744	717	1,741	1,693
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	287	288	319	254	606	542
Austin Justice Court	44	36	8	12	52	48
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	262	194	307	310	569	504
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	31	44	18	9	49	53
Eureka Justice Court	63	61	29	31	92	92
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	132	83	41	53	173	136
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	107	135	6	36	113	171
White Pine County						
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	246	185	354	460	600	645
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	7	0	0	3	7	3
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	117	136	338	327	455	463
Bunkerville Justice Court	54	23	13	7	67	30
Goodsprings Justice Court	291	284	73	78	364	362
Henderson Justice Court	4,109	3,904	6,859	6,354	10,968	10,258
Las Vegas Justice Court	61,210	55,882	74,077	90,866 ^r	135,287	146,748 ^r
Laughlin Justice Court	1,012	917	220	255	1,232	1,172
Mesquite Justice Court	147	126	232	212	379	338
Moapa Justice Court	135	55	9	17	144	72
Moapa Valley Justice Court	130	128	24	22	154	150
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,749	3,485	6,383	5,850	10,132	9,335
Searchlight Justice Court	139	91	11	9	150	100
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,203	1,079	1,034	1,091 ^r	2,237	2,170 ^r
Tahoe Justice Court	964	820 ^r	137	165	1,101	985 ^r
Total	95,652	89,238 ^r	123,788	142,501 ^r	219,440	231,739 ^r

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Number of filings are over-inclusive of cases and charges.

^r Revised from previous publication.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-10.
(See Table 14 for traffic data.)

	Criminal Case Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed ^a		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 10 ^a	FY09	FY 10	FY09	FY 10	FY09
First Judicial District						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,455	2,333 ^r	2,368	3,389	4,823	5,722
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	149	182	50	62	199	244
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	451	935	186	193	637	1,128
Reno Justice Court	7,714	7,979	8,189	7,981	15,903	15,960
Sparks Justice Court	2,748	2,724	4,285	4,186	7,033	6,910
Wadsworth Justice Court	69	67	5	8	74	75
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	707	644	835	914	1,542	1,558
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	658	665 ^r	1,180	1,450	1,838	2,115
Dayton Justice Court	607	502	715	785	1,322	1,287
Walker River Justice Court	436	181 ^r	708	418	1,144	599
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	73	193	73	88	146	281
East Line Justice Court	183	206	68	62	251	268
Elko Justice Court	1,670	1,298	1,011	972	2,681	2,270
Jackpot Justice Court	210 ^b	61	2	15	212 ^b	76
Wells Justice Court	161	270	69	46	230	316
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	10	7	3	10	13	17
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	338	341	40	74	378	415
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	183	189	21	28	204	217
Pahrump Justice Court	1,713	1,283	941	1,146 ^r	2,654	2,429 ^r
Tonopah Justice Court	338	254	124	123	462	377
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	999	879	656	661	1,655	1,540
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	305	256	185	169	490	425
Austin Justice Court	46	25	4	5	50	30
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	241	230 ^r	135	167	376	397
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	20	28	0	5	20	33
Eureka Justice Court	61	52	22	20	83	72
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	111	124	27	52	138	176
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	102	114	0	13	102	127
White Pine County						
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	228	190	339	406	567	596
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	4	0	0	3	4	3
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	147	95	208	258	355	353
Bunkerville Justice Court	20	72	3	6	23	78
Goodsprings Justice Court	278	145	50	57	328	202
Henderson Justice Court	3,254	4,062	4,028	3,896	7,282	7,958
Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	NR	80,863	109,364 ^{c,r}	80,863	109,364 ^{c,r}
Laughlin Justice Court	535	519	134	188	669	707
Mesquite Justice Court	87	215	84	139	171	354
Moapa Justice Court	140	303	3	7	143	310
Moapa Valley Justice Court	67	91	8	6	75	97
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,607	2,349	4,661	4,951	8,268	7,300
Searchlight Justice Court	125	39	9	3	134	42
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,279	1,122 ^r	546	645 ^r	1,825	1,767 ^r
Tahoe Justice Court	909	847	102	122	1,011	969
Total	33,438	32,071 ^r	112,940	143,093 ^r	146,378	175,164 ^r

NR Not reported.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Dispositions include disposition of cases and charges.

^c Dispositions include a high number of administrative closures related to efforts with the new case management system.

^r Revised from previous publication.

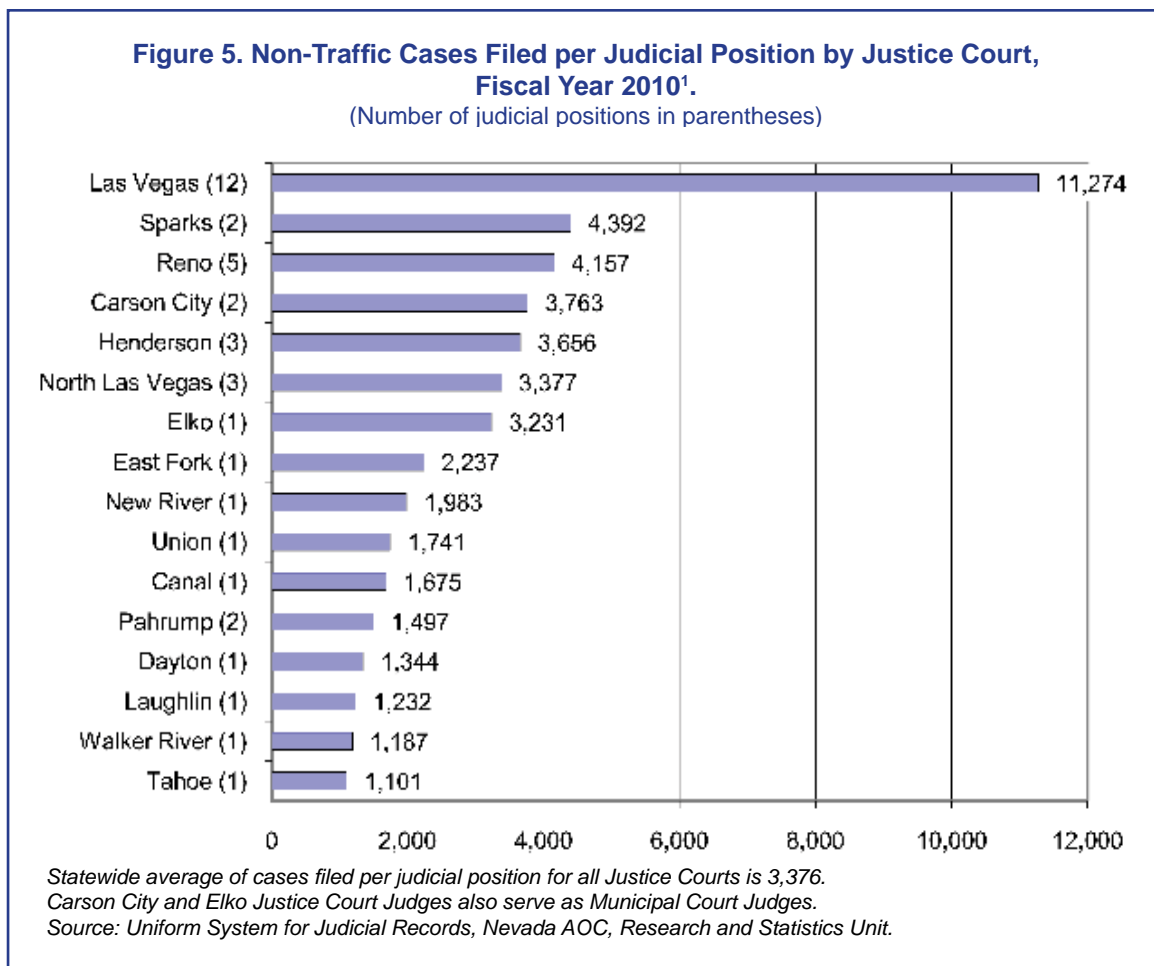
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

judicial position, a slight decrease from last year (4,454). The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 3,376, a decrease from last fiscal year (3,995).

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts by special masters who help dispose cases. These are special master positions who assist the adjudication process, but are not elected officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Carson City and Las Vegas were the only Justice Courts that reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their non-traffic caseload. Carson City Justice Court reported 0.40 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims and domestic violence protection cases. Las Vegas Justice Court reported 0.14 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases and 1.10 FTE in traffic referee. Quasi-judicial officers, such as small claims referees, make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace; juvenile masters in Justice Court are traffic judges whose decisions are final unless appealed.



¹Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position). Asterisk (*) indicates judicial position as part-time. Asterisks (**) indicates judicial position also serves as a Municipal Court Judge.

Hawthorne Justice Court	825	Wells Justice Court**	252	Moapa Justice Court*	144
Incline Village Justice Court	628	East Line Justice Court**	232	Pahranagat Valley Justice Court**	113
Argenta Justice Court	606	Jackpot Justice Court*	225	Wadsworth Justice Court*	109
Ely Justice Court	600	Carlin Justice Court**	216	Eureka Justice Court*	92
Lake Justice Court	569	Beatty Justice Court	188	Bunkerville Justice Court*	67
Boulder Justice Court**	455	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	173	Austin Justice Court*	52
Tonopah Justice Court	415	Moapa Valley Justice Court*	154	Beowawe Justice Court*	49
Mesquite Justice Court**	379	Virginia City Justice Court	152	Esmeralda Justice Court*	20
Goodsprings Justice Court	364	Searchlight Justice Court*	150	Lund Justice Court*	7

Municipal Courts

Municipal Courts are city courts and only handle cases that involve violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction includes non-traffic misdemeanors, traffic violations and, in some cities, parking. Although they generally do not handle civil cases, Nevada Revised Statute 5.050 provides limited jurisdiction to hear them.

Most Municipal Court Judges are elected and serve within the municipality in which they reside; however, some are appointed by their city council or mayor. Those appointed by the city council or mayor are Caliente, Ely, Fallon, Fernley, Mesquite, and Yerington. In fiscal year 2010, the 17 Municipal Courts were served by 30 Municipal Court Judges.

Statistical Summary

The Municipal Court non-traffic caseload information (filing and dispositions) for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 13.

Statewide, Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2010 decreased more than 3 percent from last fiscal year. Some Municipal Courts experienced large increases [Wells (56 percent), West Wendover (34 percent), and Fernley (25 percent)] while seven municipal courts experienced decreases in criminal case filings.

When courts have been contacted to regarding the decreases in criminal filings, they have indicated the decrease is due in part to the difficult economic situation on local governments and their ability to fill vacant law enforcement positions.

No civil filings were reported in any Municipal Court in fiscal year 2010. On occasion, municipalities may seek collection through the courts of unpaid utility bills. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a municipal court may handle.

Non-traffic dispositions rose less than 1 percent over last fiscal year. Las Vegas Municipal Court represented 53 percent of all cases disposed at the Municipal Court level in the state of Nevada,

Table 13. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-10.

(See Table 16 for traffic data.)

Court	Non-traffic Misdemeanors				Civil Cases			
	Cases Filed ^a		Cases Disposed ^a		Filed ^b		Disposed	
	FY10	FY09	FY10	FY09	FY10	FY09	FY10	FY09
Boulder Municipal Court	446	549	611 ^c	645 ^{c,r}	NR	NR	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	34	34	19	12	0	0	0	1
Carlin Municipal Court	55	71 ^r	46	46	0	0	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	^d	^d	^d	^d	^d	^d	^d	^d
Elko Municipal Court	604	646	627	530	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	205	203	353	306	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	267	281	220	241	NR	0	NR	0
Fernley Municipal Court	229	182 ^r	377	394	NR	NR	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	6,884	8,163	6,597	9,919	NR	NR	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	25,914 ^c	27,494 ^c	33,390 ^c	29,803 ^c	^e	^e	^e	^e
Mesquite Municipal Court	629	689	976	886	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	9,061	8,860	8,676	8,738	^e	^e	^e	^e
Reno Municipal Court	8,208	7,621 ^r	6,857	7,031	^e	^e	^e	^e
Sparks Municipal Court	2,585	2,404	3,509	3,205	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	56	36	59	40	NR	NR	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	226	169	234	264	NR	NR	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	116	95	125	97	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total	55,519	57,497 ^r	62,676	62,157 ^r	0	0	0	1

NR Not Reported

^a Case statistics include reopened cases for fiscal year 2010.

^b Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

^c Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

^d Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Tables 11 and 12) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

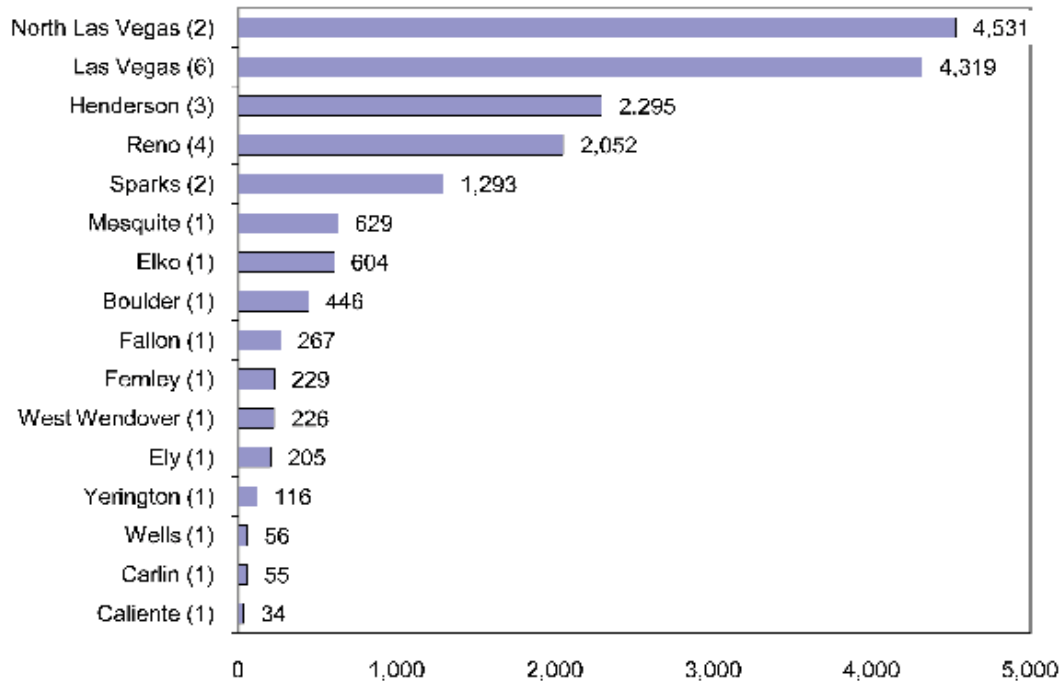
^e Cases are handled administratively by the city.

^r Revised from previous publications.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Figure 6. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Municipal Court, Fiscal Year 2010.

(Number of judicial positions in parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,983.

Carson City Justice Court judicial positions are noted in the municipal jurisdiction as a consolidated municipality but are not included in per judicial position calculations.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

followed by North Las Vegas (14 percent), Reno (11 percent), and Henderson (11 percent).

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2010 is shown in Figure 6. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because cases may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement, and thus provide a more equal comparison between courts.

North Las Vegas and Las Vegas Municipal Courts, continue to have the most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. North Las Vegas (4,531) and then Las Vegas (4,319) were followed by Henderson (2,295), Reno (2,052), and Sparks (1,293). The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,983, a decrease from the previous fiscal year (2,052). The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Tables 11 and 12 with Justice Courts.

Judicial Assistance

Quasi-judicial assistance may be used by Municipal Courts as well as District and Justice Courts. The AOC and the courts, in fiscal year 2001, began quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Las Vegas Municipal Court reported 1.00 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions as a traffic commissioner that helped process traffic cases.

Traffic Violations

Traffic violations comprise a substantial portion of the judicial caseload. These violations are handled at all three jurisdictional levels (District, Justice, and Municipal) of the Nevada trial courts. A major change to USJR statistics this year was the preferred counting of traffic cases by defendant rather than by charge. As mentioned previously, this change in the level of measurement was done to create a uniform standard of measurement for all case types. Accordingly, this fiscal year both the number of charges and cases filed are shown in Tables 14-16.

As mentioned previously, this fiscal year overall, traffic charges decreased 5 percent. Some courts have reported that traffic citations were down and that may

be due to local governments ability to maintain or fill vacant law enforcement positions.

Detailed statistics for traffic cases are included along with the criminal cases in the appendix posted on the Nevada Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) in the Administrative Office of the Court documents area.

In addition to their non-traffic caseloads, District Courts also hear juvenile traffic cases. Justice and Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over adult traffic and parking cases as misdemeanor violations. A few jurisdictions do not hear parking tickets, as they are handled administratively by the local governments (executive branch).

District Court Summary

District Court received 5,465 total new traffic filings (cases) this fiscal year. Fiscal year 2010 began tracking juvenile traffic cases by the petition or citation, not by charges as in previous years. Juvenile

Table 14. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court, Fiscal Years 2009-10.

Court	Total Cases		Juvenile Traffic		Total Disposed ^a	
	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009
First Judicial District						
Carson City District Court	356		468	701	466	719
Storey County District Court	5		6	1	6	1
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County District Court	1,859		2,704	3,273 ^r	NR	NR
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County District Court	112		171	175	180	183
Lyon County District Court	139		207 ^b	400 ^b	131 ^b	331 ^b
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County District Court	681		842	805 ^r	576	893 ^r
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County District Court	2		2	13	2	12
Mineral County District Court	3		3	1	5	1
Nye County District Court	98		172	198	118	236
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County District Court	125		153	117	129	110
Lander County District Court	57		76	108	76	62 ^r
Pershing County District Court	7		9	0	8	0
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County District Court	c		c	c	c	c
Lincoln County District Court	c		c	c	c	c
White Pine County District Court	c		c	c	c	c
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County District Court	1,797		2,046	2,044	743	56 ^{d,r}
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County District Court	224		304	387	271	344
Total	5,465		7,163	8,223^r	2,711	2,948^r

NR Not reported.

^a FY 2009 traffic violations were reported on the charge level. FY 2010 violations were reported on a case level. Charges were included for FY 2010 to provide a comparison to FY 2009.

^b Decrease is in part by administrative change in statistical reporting.

^c Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

^d Court started reporting dispositions June 2009.

^r Revised from previous publications.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

traffic charges filed in District Courts decreased nearly 13 percent from last fiscal year. The juvenile traffic filing and disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14.

Detailed statistics for juvenile traffic filings are included in the appendix posted on the Nevada Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) in the Administrative Office of the Courts documents area.

District Court juvenile traffic charges continue to be cyclical for some courts. Humboldt County increased almost 31 percent after experiencing a 42 percent decrease from fiscal year 2009. Washoe County decreased about 17 percent this fiscal year after seeing a 10 percent increase in 2009. Elko County continued to see an increase in charges (5 percent), while others experienced decreases [Carson City (33 percent), Lander County (30 percent), and Douglas County (21 percent)]. Lyon County continued to experience a decrease (48 percent), which was the result of an administrative correction in statistical reporting.

In Washoe County, all juvenile traffic citations are handled at the juvenile justice facility. At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases, which may be counted at the District or Justice Court level depending on the processes within the judicial district. Clark County handles and reports their juvenile traffic separate from the District Court. The cases are listed in the respective District or Justice Court tables. District Court juvenile traffic violation dispositions reported by District Courts decreased by 8 percent from fiscal years 2009 to 2010.



(12-Emigrant Pass)



(11-Washoe Lake)

Justice Court Summary

In the Justice Courts, the number of traffic cases are more than double the total non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases. Parking violations are included in the Justice Court traffic numbers but make up less than 3 percent of the total traffic filings. Traffic filing and disposition information for Justice Courts for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 15.

Statewide, Justice Court traffic charges decreased 5 percent. In previous fiscal years, some Justice Courts have reported large swings (more than 100 percent) in charges. This year Carlin had the largest increase (almost 36 percent).

Canal had the largest decrease (54 percent), which can be partially attributable to the redistricting of Lyon County townships. Walker River saw the second highest increase in charges (almost 29 percent) and Dayton the fourth largest decrease (39 percent). The Lyon County townships decreased almost 37 percent as a whole.

As can be expected for the court with the most populous township, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest traffic caseloads with 57 percent of the statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with almost 7 percent of the traffic caseload. Goodsprings and Carson City Justice Courts followed with 4 and 3 percent of the traffic caseload, respectively.

The disposition information for Justice Court traffic and parking violations is provided in Table 15. This year, with the implementation of expanded statistical reporting, traffic and parking dispositions are by the case, not the charge level. Accordingly, comparisons cannot be made between the years.

Table 15. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-10.
Traffic and Parking ^a

Court	Total Filed			Disposed ^b	
	Cases ^c FY 2010	Charges FY 2010 FY 2009		Cases ^c FY 2010	Charges FY 2009
First Judicial District					
Carson City					
Carson City Justice Court ^d	11,017	14,855	19,939	11,373	19,788 ^r
Storey County					
Virginia City Justice Court	697	861	1,041	635	1,180
Second Judicial District					
Washoe County					
Incline Village Justice Court	1,334	1,756	2,361	1,528	2,377
Reno Justice Court ^e	24,207	36,311 ^f	34,688 ^{fr}	22,371	36,128
Sparks Justice Court ^e	7,768	11,774	11,878	6,985	10,472
Wadsworth Justice Court	3,687	4,517	4,701	3,433	4,326
Third Judicial District					
Churchill County					
New River Justice Court	4,132	5,381	5,143	4,098	4,804
Lyon County					
Canal Justice Court	1,793	2,375	5,224	2,165	4,799
Dayton Justice Court	2,293	2,885	4,730	2,188	4,894
Walker River Justice Court	1,645	2,040	1,585	1,484	1,517
Fourth Judicial District					
Elko County					
Carlin Justice Court	390	464	342	304	301 ^r
East Line Justice Court	811	842	686	761	405
Elko Justice Court	6,649	8,456	9,486	6,195	7,110
Jackpot Justice Court	2,097	2,087	2,339	2,071 ^g	2,259
Wells Justice Court	3,934	5,342	8,049	2,978	6,894
Fifth Judicial District					
Esmeralda County					
Esmeralda Justice Court	3,408	4,007	4,141	3,014	2,697
Mineral County					
Hawthorne Justice Court	6,070	7,028	6,557	5,082	4,742
Nye County					
Beatty Justice Court	2,011	2,330	2,650	2,295	2,589
Pahrump Justice Court	2,993	4,748	5,197	2,955	4,804
Tonopah Justice Court	1,104	1,347	2,212	1,189	1,982
Sixth Judicial District					
Humboldt County					
Union Justice Court	5,995	7,476	8,088	5,648	7,235
Lander County					
Argenta Justice Court	2,768	3,406	3,266	2,645	2,844
Austin Justice Court	674	854	1,601	777	1,476
Pershing County					
Lake Justice Court	986	1,157	1,214	787	1,064
Seventh Judicial District					
Eureka County					
Beowawe Justice Court	573	649	690	459	686
Eureka Justice Court	838	955	1,480 ^r	858	1,309
Lincoln County					
Meadow Valley Justice Court	1,195	1,416	1,453 ^r	1,209	1,491
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	3,213	3,655	3,108	3,194	2,616
White Pine County					
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	3,017	3,554	3,854	2,911	3,284
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	505	585	654	465	563
Eighth Judicial District					
Clark County					
Boulder Justice Court	468	653	525	433 ⁱ	424
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,398	1,621	1,504	1,257	1,381
Goodsprings Justice Court	15,074	14,976	11,883	12,849 ⁱ	10,887
Henderson Justice Court	6,392	9,005	10,191 ^r	6,504	9,230
Las Vegas Justice Court	212,876	312,006	324,330 ^r	189,707 ⁱ	173,044 ^r
Laughlin Justice Court	7,247	8,235	8,351	8,295	7,613
Mesquite Justice Court	1	10	15	0	2
Moapa Justice Court	4,451	4,479	3,554	4,355	3,397
Moapa Valley Justice Court	931	1,203	1,670	949 ⁱ	1,628
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,732	2,506	2,003	1,634	1,701
Searchlight Justice Court	6,276	7,258	7,168	6,112	6,236
Ninth Judicial District					
Douglas County					
East Fork Justice Court	6,016	7,848	10,106 ^r	6,019	9,621
Tahoe Justice Court	2,686	3,470	4,088	2,571	3,628
Total	373,352	516,383	543,745 ^r	342,742	375,428 ^r

^a Case and charge information include juvenile traffic statistics (see appendix table A9). Totals on this sheet will not match appendix table A6 totals due to footnotes (e,f) and included juvenile statistics.

^b Previous annual report dispositions for traffic cases were reported by the charge, not the case level. Comparison between cases and charges should not be made.

^c Case statistics include reopened cases.

^d Municipal Court data included in totals.

^e Reopened (cases) are not included. Fiscal Year 2010 traffic and parking dispositions reported by charges so total disposed was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

^f Cases were multiplied by 1.5 to determine the charge count so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

^g Dispositions include disposition of cases and charges.

ⁱ Incomplete.

^r Revised from previous publications.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Municipal Court Summary

In the Municipal Courts, the number of traffic violations has historically been more than four times the total non-traffic filings. Even with the changes to USJR reporting traffic on the case level, versus the charge level, this fiscal year was no different. Parking violations are included in the Municipal Court traffic numbers but are about 2 percent of the total filings.

Municipal Court traffic and parking charges decreased about 6 percent from the previous fiscal year. As discussed previously, traffic filings are heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or vacant.

Some Municipal Courts saw increases [Fernley (119 percent), North Las Vegas (11 percent), and Caliente (5 percent)], or decreases [Carlin (71 percent) and Yerington (41 percent)] in traffic and parking violations.

The disposition information for Municipal Court traffic and parking violations is provided in Table 16. This year, with the implementation of expanded USJR statistics, the traffic and parking dispositions

are by the case, not the charge level. Accordingly, comparisons cannot be made between the years.



(13-Lamoille Canyon)

Table 16. Summary of Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-10.
Traffic and Parking ^a

Court	Total Filed			Disposed ^b	
	Cases ^c	Charges		Cases ^c	Charges
	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2009
Boulder Municipal Court ^d	4,628	6,547	7,871	4,523 ^e	7,688
Caliente Municipal Court	106	138	131	122	141
Carlin Municipal Court	52	44	152	44	95 ^r
Carson City Municipal Court	^f	^f	^f	^f	^f
Elko Municipal Court	1,753	2,025	2,525	1,102	1,472
Ely Municipal Court	372	451	613	560	681
Fallon Municipal Court	769	1,050	1,145	682	1,126
Fernley Municipal Court	2,166	2,704	1,233	2,498	1,128
Henderson Municipal Court	33,057	47,964	49,524	33,020	48,248
Las Vegas Municipal Court	114,804 ^{eg}	172,194	189,209	138,813 ^e	179,432
Mesquite Municipal Court	1,853	2,779	3,687	2,306	3,665
North Las Vegas Municipal Court ^d	39,697	61,526	55,628	36,860 ^e	54,958
Reno Municipal Court	27,736	36,574	43,311	25,985	41,503
Sparks Municipal Court	8,308	11,862	11,798	8,971	11,288
Wells Municipal Court	111	212	282	75	185
West Wendover Municipal Court	937	980	1,121	871	664
Yerington Municipal Court	104	125	210	131	214
Total	236,453	347,175	368,440	256,563	352,488 ^r

^a Case and charge information include juvenile traffic statistics (see appendix table A9). Totals on this sheet will not match appendix table A8 totals due to footnote (e) and included juvenile statistics.

^b Previous annual report dispositions for traffic cases were reported by the charge, not the case level. Comparison between cases and charges should not be made.

^c Case statistics include reopened cases.

^d Reopened (cases) are not included. Traffic dispositions on the charge level, not the case level.

^e Court reported traffic and parking statistics by charges so total charges was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

^f Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table 15) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^g Case counts reported include reopened matters at the charge level.

^r Revised from previous publications.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Specialty Court Programs

This section covers Specialty Court programs funded during fiscal year 2010 from administrative assessments (AA) per NRS 176.0613 and 176.059. Not all Nevada programs may be represented in this report, as courts may have a Specialty Court program for which they do not receive funding from NRS 176.0613 or 176.059.

What are Specialty Courts?

Criminal Specialty Courts are problem-solving courts designed to address the root causes of criminal activity by coordinating efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, treatment, mental health, social services, and child protection services. Together, they maintain a critical balance of authority, supervision, support, and encouragement. Specialty Court programs are rigorous, requiring frequent drug testing and court appearances, along with tightly structured regimens of treatment and recovery services.

“Nevada has embraced Specialty Courts as a valuable judicial tool ever since the nation’s fifth Drug Court was established in Clark County in 1992,” said Justice Michael L. Douglas, who oversees the Specialty Court program along with Justice Mark Gibbons. “With the support of state and local governments, Nevada became a national leader in the field. The benefits of Drug Courts and other Specialty Courts are now available to everyone in every county in Nevada, and at every court level, involving both misdemeanor and felony offenders.”

The goal of a Specialty Court is to break the cycle of the “revolving door” syndrome and support participants in achieving total abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol, by promoting responsibility and accountability, and teaching participants to become productive law abiding citizens, which in return reduces criminal recidivism and provides for better, healthier communities.

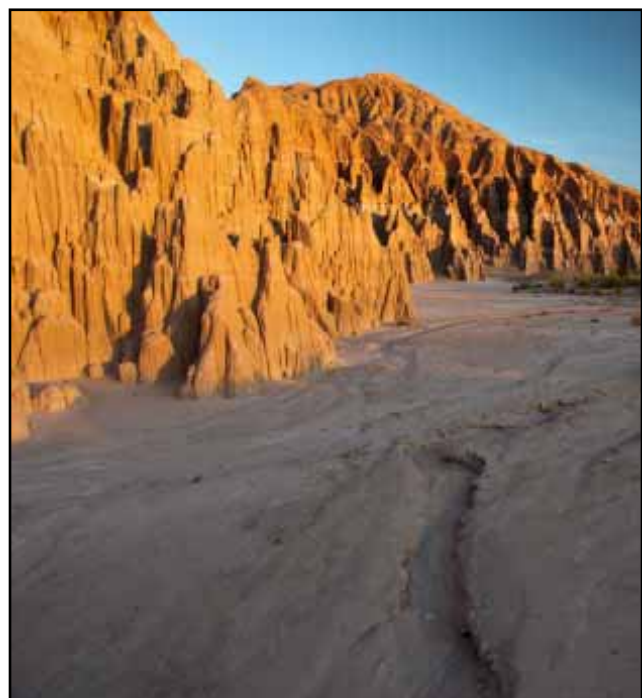
Specialty Courts increase the probability of the participant’s success by providing a wide array of ancillary services such as counseling, mental health treatment, family therapy, job skills training, and other life-skill enhancement services. In addition, families are reunified and parents regain or are able to retain custody of their children. Most significantly, many of the judges who serve as a Specialty Court Judge continue to serve in the capacity after retirement as a Senior Judge and some sitting judges

have requested an extension of their assignment. Many judges have taken on Specialty Court duties in addition to their normal docket responsibilities.

History of Nevada’s Specialty Courts

The first drug court in the State was established in 1992 by the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County. The program was created due to the enormous caseload involving drug related crimes. Since the program was created in a non-legislative year, this program was primarily funded by the county through funds obtained by the courts’ traffic and driving under the influence (DUI) schools and by funds collected from participants in the drug court. Since this program provided an alternative to incarceration, it seemed logical to approach the Legislature to provide funding for this very successful program.

During the 1993 Legislature, the Eighth Judicial District Court submitted Senate Bill 175, which would have appropriated \$250,000 for the biennium to the Clark County Drug Court. Senate Bill 175 was not approved, however Assembly Concurrent Resolution 71 was approved, which directed the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of drug and alcohol abuse among criminal offenders. The interim study committee adopted 28 recommendations; the majority of the recommendations were for legislation related to the collection of statistics, civil commitment, funding,



(14-Cathedral Gorge)

eligibility requirements, establishment of other similar programs, deferred prosecution, treatment for first-time DUI offenders, mandatory minimum sentences, inpatient treatment services, sanctions for juvenile drug and alcohol offenders, the creation of a substance abuse program director for the Department of Prisons, funding to study the progress of treated substance abusers, and encourage the Governor of Nevada to appropriate funds in the 1995-97 budget for treatment programs. The final report of the committee can be found on the legislative website (Bulletin 95-09).

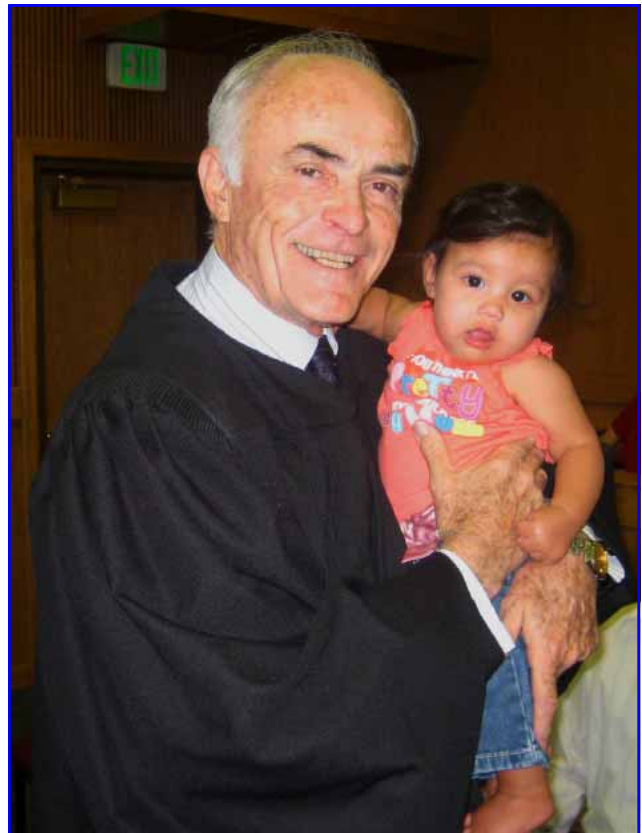
Additional legislation that supports Specialty Courts includes:

- In 1995, Assembly Bill 88 authorized \$350,000 in appropriations to the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts for programs of alcohol or drug abuse treatment.
- In 1997, Senate Bill 135 also appropriated \$350,000 to the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts for the biennium for their programs.
- In 1999, Senate Bill 184 appropriated just over \$1 million to the Second and Eighth Judicial District for the biennium.
- In 2003, Assembly Bill 29 provided an additional \$7 assessment to misdemeanor convictions in Justice and Municipal Courts, to provide additional funding for Specialty Courts throughout the State. Additionally, this fund receives 10 percent of felony bail forfeitures. AB29 (NRS 176.0613) became effective July 1, 2003.
- In 2007, Assembly Bill 625 re-distributed the allocation of administrative assessment fees for use by the Supreme Court to provide additional funding to Specialty Courts. AB625 (NRS 176.059) became effective July 1, 2008.
- In 2009, Assembly Bill 187, Assembly Bill 102, and Assembly Bill 497 related to Specialty Courts were introduced. AB187 authorizes District Courts to establish a program for treatment of certain offenders who are veterans or members of the military and became effective July 1, 2009. Assembly Bill 102 authorizes a court to establish a program of treatment for problem gambling and became effective July 1, 2009. Assembly Bill 497 provides for the collection and sharing of statistical information and it became effective July 1, 2010.

Funding

Specialty Courts obtain funding from a wide variety of sources, including NRS 176.0613, local government, federal grants, and community support. Many of the programs became operational through state general funds, federal grants, and city/county support. In those jurisdictions where federal grants expired, innovative ways to replace the funds have been created through collaborative efforts with local governments or providers. Not all jurisdictions have been successful in finding other funds to meet program needs.

All specialty court participants are charged a program fee. The fee amount, how it is collected,



(Photo Courtesy of the Second Judicial District)

**“THERE IS NO GREATER FEELING
THAN TO HOLD THE YOUNG CHILD OF A
GRADUATING MOTHER IN YOUR ARMS.
A YOUNG CHILD OF A GRADUATING
MOTHER: THE GREATEST SUCCESS OF
SPECIALTY COURTS.”**

**Peter Breen
Senior District Court Judge
Washoe County Specialty Court Program**

Table 17. Summary of Specialty Courts Revenue and Allocations for Fiscal Year 2010

Revenue	
Balance forward from previous fiscal year	\$2,163,597
Administrative assessments NRS 176.0613	\$4,237,191
Bail forfeitures NRS 178.158	\$94,068
Court assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,886,652
Total revenue received	\$8,381,508
Allocations	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$6,149,524
Training and education ¹	\$100,000
Balance forward to the next fiscal year²	\$2,131,984

¹ Training and education funds are retained by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Programs may have eligible employees apply to attend national and/or other trainings that relate to the program. Funds that are not expended each year are carried forward to the following fiscal year.

² Balance forward is required to fund the first quarterly distribution of the following fiscal year.

and how it is distributed differs from program to program. Some courts collect the fee to offset treatment and other operational costs while in other courts, especially in the rural areas where resources are scarce, the treatment provider collects and retains the fee.

Funding for Specialty Courts is authorized from NRS 176.0613, 176.059, and 178.518. Funds generated in fiscal year 2010 totaled \$6,217,911. In addition to this amount, \$2,163,597 was carried forward from the previous fiscal year. The balance brought forward from the previous fiscal year is a critical component as this provides the first quarterly distribution for the next fiscal year. Table 17 represents the amount of revenue generated and how funds were allocated for fiscal year 2010.

In fiscal year 2010, funding was authorized for 42 programs by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada on recommendations of the Specialty Court Funding Committee. All Specialty Court programs receive quarterly distributions (July, October, January, and April). Table 18 represents program distributions approved by the Specialty Court Funding Committee and authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada for fiscal year 2010.

Current Status of Programs

Specialty Courts programs in fiscal year 2010 served more than 3,400 defendants and more than 1,300 of them graduated. Of those 3,400 participants, 57 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year, as seen in Table 19.

Currently, Nevada has 42 Specialty Court programs operating in all judicial districts. There are 26 urban programs and 16 rural. The 42 programs are comprised of 17 adult drug courts (including

diversion and child support); 2 family drug courts; 3 mental health courts; 5 juvenile drug courts; 2 prison re-entry courts; 3 felony DUI courts; 3 DUI courts; 4 alcohol and other drug courts; 2 habitual offender courts; and 1 female prostitution court. These programs would not be possible except for the passage of Assembly Bill 29 in 2003. Prior to AB29, three courts were known to operate a Specialty Court program. AB29 has provided a stable funding source so Nevada could add new programs and expand existing programs. The passage of AB29 was due to the efforts of judges, district attorneys, public defenders, as well as many key legislators.



(15-Washoe Lake)

**Table 18. Summary of Specialty Court Program Distributions,
Fiscal Year 2010**

Court	Fiscal Year 2010 Funding
<i>Programs of General Jurisdiction</i>	
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District (Includes Diversion)	\$618,091
Eighth Judicial District	\$1,771,127
Adult Drug Courts (Rural Counties)	
Western Region (5 Programs - Carson City/Storey, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, & Northern Mineral Counties)	\$429,938
Eastern Region (3 Programs - Elko, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties)	\$221,501
Fifth Judicial District	\$133,616
Sixth Judicial District (Humboldt County)	\$93,169
Sixth Judicial District (Pershing County)	\$91,000
Sixth Judicial District (Lander County)	\$14,680
Felony DUI Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$85,425
Eighth Judicial District	\$203,381
Felony DUI Courts (Rural Counties)	
Carson City	\$55,760
Mental Health Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$20,300
Eighth Judicial District	\$463,645
Family Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$74,250
Eighth Judicial District	\$317,375
Juvenile Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District (Drug/Mental Health)	\$44,100
Eighth Judicial District	\$403,875
Juvenile Drug Courts (Rural Counties)	
First Judicial District	\$13,680
Eastern Region	\$85,936
Fifth Judicial District	\$6,700
Other Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Eighth Judicial District Child Support	\$46,600
<i>Programs of Limited Jurisdiction</i>	
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Las Vegas Justice Court	\$236,420
Mental Health Courts (Rural Counties)	
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court	\$62,320
Other Programs (Urban Counties)	
Henderson Municipal Court ABC Program	\$43,930
Las Vegas Justice DUI Court (2 Programs)	\$187,882
Las Vegas Municipal Drug Court	\$38,210
Las Vegas Municipal DUI Court	\$13,500
Las Vegas Municipal Female Prostitute Prevention Program	\$17,794
Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court	\$106,544
Reno Justice Adult Drug, Alcohol, & Domestic Violence Court	\$100,275
Reno Municipal Alcohol & Other Drug Court (2 Programs)	\$132,000
Sparks Municipal Alcohol & Other Drug Court	\$16,500
TOTAL SPECIALTY COURT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$6,149,524

Table 19. Summary of Specialty Court Information, Fiscal Year 2010.

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants/ Admissions	Terminations ¹	Graduates	Active Cases at Year End	Drug Free Babies Born
Western Region						
Western Regional Drug Court	Adult Drug (5 programs)	154	135	66	172	2
Carson City & Storey County	Juvenile Drug	4	4	5	10	0
Carson City	Felony DUI Court	17	4	0	64	0
Carson City Justice Court	Mental Health	35	17	10	33	0
	TOTAL	210	160	81	279	2
Washoe Region						
Second Judicial District (Includes Diversion)	Adult Drug (Includes Diversion)	369	270	184	582	16
	Family Drug	32	11	18	33	1
	Felony DUI	83	17	0	148	0
	Juvenile Drug	24	12	12	20	1
	Mental Health	173	92	96	186	10
	Prison Re-entry	13	3	5	23	0
	Veterans Court	29	2	7	19	0
Reno Justice	Alcohol & Drug Court	159	38	87	245	0
Sparks Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	75	11	30	120	0
Reno Municipal (2 Programs)	Alcohol & Drug Court	100	17	53	106	1
	TOTAL	1,057	473	492	1,482	29
Eastern Region						
Elko County	Adult Drug	26	11	17	38	4
	Juvenile Drug	22	19	7	13	2
White Pine County	Adult Drug (2 programs)	12	3	17	21	1
	TOTAL	60	33	41	72	7
Fifth Judicial District						
Nye County	Adult Drug	46	29	15	31	3
	Juvenile drug	7	9	3	8	10
	TOTAL	53	38	18	39	13
Central Region						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	25	11	7	37	0
Lander County	Adult Drug	5	4	3	6	0
Pershing County	Adult Drug	0	2	0	5	0
	TOTAL	30	17	10	48	0
Clark Region						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	441	322	283	395	0
	Child Support Drug	16	5	7	21	0
	Dependency/Family Drug	95	79	38	38	0
	Felony DUI Court	153	32	32	376	0
	Juvenile Drug	98	44	21	104	0
	Mental Health	76	25	30	97	1
	Prison Re-Entry Drug	10	6	11	16	0
Las Vegas Justice	Adult Drug	96	54	56	162	0
	DUI Court (2 programs)	145	37	124	151	1
Las Vegas Municipal	Adult Drug	18	8	10	22	0
	DUI Court	68	33	28	94	2
	Female Prostitution	26	27	4	28	2
	Habitual Offender	24	15	16	44	0
Henderson Municipal	Habitual Offender	18	10	5	17	0
	TOTAL	1,284	697	665	1,565	6
ALL SPECIALTY COURTS	GRAND TOTAL	2,694	1,418	1,307	3,485	57

¹ Includes remands/removals, transfers to other specialty courts, and deceased participants.

Source: Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Specialty Courts Program.

Courts with Incomplete Data

Courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2010 are listed in Table 20, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

Once again, all courts provided caseload information. However, three courts are missing some of their disposition information. Reporting by the courts continues to improve and all the courts are to be commended for their efforts to meet the Uniform System for Judicial Records reporting requirements, especially those meeting the newly expanded criminal requirements.

The disposition data are harder for court staff to collect than the filing information. Many courts throughout Nevada do not have automated case

management systems and court staff manually collect the information from each case or citation.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with the courts on technology projects that put case management systems in many of the rural courts and some urban courts. Case management systems provide the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistical reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

During fiscal year 2010, the Fernley and Mesquite Municipal Courts began using the state-sponsored system. This brings the total number of courts using all or part of the system to 41. More courts are scheduled to go to the state-sponsored system during the next fiscal year.

Table 20. Data Non-Reporting by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2010.

Court	Case Type ¹	Filings/ Cases	Charges	Dispo- sitions	Table
Second Judicial District					
Washoe County District Court	Juvenile Traffic			NR	A8
Third Judicial District					
Churchill County District Court	Reopened Civil Cases	NR			A3
	Reopened Family Cases	NR			A4
Lyon County District Court	Reopened Civil Cases	NR			A3
	Juvenile Traffic	NR			A8
Fourth Judicial District					
Carlin Justice Court	Felony & Gross Misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
East Line Justice Court	Felony & Gross Misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
Jackpot Justice Court	Re-opened Civil Cases	NR			A7
	Felony & Gross Misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Re-opened Civil Cases	NR			A7
Wells Justice Court	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
	Felony & Gross Misdemeanor	NR			A6
Wells Municipal Court	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A10
W. Wendover Municipal Court	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A10
Seventh Judicial District					
Beowawe Justice Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR	NR		A9
Eighth Judicial District					
Clark County District Court	Juvenile Traffic			NR	A8
Boulder Justice Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR	NR		A9
Bunkerville Justice Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR	NR		A9
Las Vegas Justice Court	Felony, Gross Misd., Misdemeanor			NR	A6
Mesquite Justice Court	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
	Re-opened Civil Cases	NR			A7
Moapa Justice Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR	NR		A9
Las Vegas Municipal Court	Adult Traffic	NR			A10

NR Not Reported

¹ Municipal Civil cases are not included here. Civil filings and dispositions are infrequent in municipal courts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

**ALL APPENDIX TABLES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA WEBSITE
WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US.**

**CLICK ON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, THEN RESEARCH & STATISTICS,
AND THEN DOCUMENTS AND FORMS.**

THE SUPREME COURT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS ANNUAL REPORT

ALL THE NEVADA JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL STAFF

THE ANNUAL REPORT WORKGROUP:

CHIEF JUSTICE RON D. PARRAGUIRRE
RON TITUS, COURT ADMINISTRATOR
ROBIN SWEET, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BILL GANG, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
HANS JESSUP, LEAD COURT RESEARCH ANALYST
SHELDON STEELE, COURT RESEARCH ANALYST

NON-JUDICIAL CONTRIBUTORS

JEFF HARDCASTLE
(STATE DEMOGRAPHER)

ANDY HORSTMANSHOFF

WWW.MINDFULIMAGES.COM

(ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHTED BY ANDY HORSTMANSHOFF AND USED WITH PERMISSION)

(PHOTO NUMBER: FRONT COVER, WALKER LAKE AREA;

#3 CARSON RIVER; #4 CARSON RIVER; #5, FLY GEYSER-BLACK ROCK DESERT;
#7, STONE MOTHER-PYRAMID LAKE; #8, WASHOE LAKE; #9 HUMBOLDT RIVER;
#10, WALKER LAKE; #11, WASHOE LAKE; #12, EMIGRANT PASS-NEAR AUSTIN, NV;
#13, LAMOILLE CANYON; #15, WASHOE LAKE; BACK COVER, FORT CHRUCHILL)

LARRY JESSUP

WWW.LARRYJESSUPPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

(ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHTED BY LARRY JESSUP AND USED WITH PERMISSION)

(PHOTO NUMBER #1, REDROCK CANYON;

#2, DELMAR, NV; #6, DELMAR, NV; #14, CATHEDRAL GORGE)



SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
201 SOUTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
775-684-1700
WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US